

00001

1 WESTERN INTERIOR SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
2 PUBLIC MEETING
3 Aniak Community Hall
4 October 13, 1999
5 9:00 a.m. o'clock
6 Aniak, Alaska
7

8 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

9
10 Ronald Sam, Chairman
11 Raymond L. Collins
12 Henry Deacon
13 Samson Henry
14 Benedict Jones
15 Carl Morgan
16 Jack L. Reakoff
17 Michael Stickman
18
19
20 Vince Mathews, Regional Coordinator

00002

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3 (On record - 9:20)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: It is now 9:21, October 13th.

6 I'd like to call this Western Interior Subsistence Council

7 meeting to order. Vince, could you take roll call.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Carl

10 Morgan.

11

12 MR. MORGAN: Here.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff. No, she's
19 not making, she had a scheduling conflict.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Here.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.

26

27 MR. JONES: Here.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Henry Deacon.

30

31 MR. DEACON: Here.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

34

35 MR. REAKOFF: Here.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Michael Stickman.

38

39 MR. STICKMAN: Here.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Samson Henry.

42

43 MR. HENRY: Here.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you have eight of
46 the nine members here so you do have a quorum.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I would like to
49 ask Carl Morgan if there is any elders present to introduce?

50

00003

1 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, no, not at this
2 time, thank you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. At this time then we'll
5 go into introduction of Agency Staff. I would like to hold
6 off on introductions of our Council members until we come up
7 under our council member concerns, is that fine with
8 everyone?

9
10 (Various nodding affirmatively)

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I can start for the
13 agency here. But I need to make an announcement, there is a
14 sign-in sheet over there. It does help with the court
15 recorder and myself if you sign in, that way we can get the
16 names and hopefully spell them right, too, so it's over there
17 by the door. I'm Vince Mathews, I'm the coordinator for
18 Western Interior with Fish and Wildlife Service out of
19 Fairbanks.

20
21 MR. SHERROD: I'm George Sherrod,
22 anthropologist for the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service,
23 Fairbanks.

24
25 MR. DeMATTEO: Pete DeMatteo, biologist for
26 the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage.

27
28 MS. HILDEBRAND: I'm Ida Hildebrand, BIA,
29 Staff Committee member.

30
31 MR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel with the Bureau of
32 Land Management Northern Field Office in Fairbanks.

33
34 MR. CRAIG: I'm Tim Craig with Bureau of Land
35 Management, Northern Field Office in Fairbanks.

36
37 MR. BERKSTROM: I'm Dan Berkstrom with the
38 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and with commercial
39 fisheries. I'm the Yukon River area biologists for chinook
40 and summer chum salmon.

41
42 MR. McClellan: I'm Greg McClellan with
43 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, subsistence coordinator.

44
45 MR. TWITCHELL: I'm Hollis Twitchell, I'm
46 with Denali National Park and Preserve.

47
48 MS. ROBERTS: I'm Joanna Roberts, the
49 subsistence coordinator for the Koyukuk/Nowitna National
50 Wildlife Refuges.

00004

1 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Lisa Saperstein, wildlife
2 biologist for the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.

3
4 MS. PHILLIPS: Liza Phillips from Lower
5 Kalskag.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

8
9 MR. HAMILTON: I'm Arnold Hamilton from
10 Shageluk. I'm a member of the GASH committee and chair
11 person of the Interior Rivers RCV Council.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I appreciate your
14 presence. We also have David James, council member from
15 Eastern Interior, would you stand up, James. Okay. And also
16 we have Gerald Nicholia, Eastern Interior.

17
18 MS. MORGAN: I'm Angie Morgan, natural
19 resource director for the Kuskokwim Native Association and
20 also acting as executive director.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did we miss anyone?

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman. There will
25 be others coming in on the 10:00 o'clock flight and they'll
26 introduce themselves as they come in and there's some other
27 Staff that are coming in later, too, they'll just have to
28 introduce themselves.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, as Vince stated we do
31 have a sign-in sheet and I would appreciate it if you all
32 would sign in since you didn't use the mic to introduce
33 yourself, and like I said that would be appreciated.

34
35 At this time on our agenda we have the opening
36 comments by Aniak elder, but since we don't have anyone
37 present, I'll leave it open to Carl to let me know if anyone
38 comes in and wants to make a comment, especially from our
39 elders.

40
41 At this time we have short opening council member
42 concerns and topic that we may discuss, some of these may be
43 on the agenda so I would like to start with Carol Morgan from
44 Aniak.

45
46 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, good morning, thank you.
47 I think the concerns that we've got around this area, I
48 think, might be area wide that hit most of the state. We're
49 very concerned about the pressure we're getting with the
50 great number of hunters. We're seeing them starting in the

00005

1 first of August, the caribou, until the end of September.
2 It's a lot of guiding. We're very, very concerned of the
3 outfitters because they aren't responsible for their people
4 they bring in. They bring them in they put them on a boat
5 and they let these people do whatever they want to do. These
6 people are not hunters. These people are not trophy hunters,
7 they're just coming in here to shoot something, and that
8 could be proven by some of the charges or violations that
9 have been brought to them. They brought one group of hunters
10 with 10 caribou horns with only 140 pounds of meat. And
11 these weren't big horns, these were, you know, we don't even
12 shoot them. So we're very concerned.

13
14 We've been hollering. I think if we look at our
15 records in the Western Interior, you'll see that we've said
16 this. If I look back at the notes, it's been repeated. And
17 I think what's being caught out there and the people that's
18 being caught breaking the law, we're just touching the tip of
19 the iceberg because we don't have the enforcement. We've got
20 a whole bunch of hunters but no enforcement. We've got plane
21 loads of horns going out of here but where's the meat. And
22 we're very concerned about -- the concern is wanton waste.
23 Something has to be done about redefining wanton waste.

24
25 Our other concern is the fisheries. This is the
26 third year that we have a disaster along the Kuskokwim. This
27 year has been the worse ever. The worse ever on record that
28 the escapement hasn't been met. We had one commercial
29 opening down at the mouth for chum, one commercial opening
30 for the silvers. And it's been the worst ever catch.

31
32 And that's about it, thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Mr. Morgan we'll
35 be calling on you again and we appreciate your comments.
36 Some of this will be coming up on the agenda and we'll be
37 calling back on you. Ray.

38
39 MR. COLLINS: Ray Collins from the upper
40 Kuskokwim area, specifically in McGrath. My concerns have
41 pretty well be expressed by Carl on the growing air taxi
42 operations that are unregulated and I'm not sure what we can
43 do about that because I think it's a State problem of not
44 regulating those. Other concerns that I have, I think are
45 covered by the agenda. I want to hear what's happening with
46 the moose management up on the Koyukuk, and I am concerned
47 about some kind of a same -- similar effort taking place over
48 on the Innoko area, moose management. So I'll be waiting to
49 hear when those come up on the agenda.

50

00006

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Henry Deacon,
4 introduce yourself please.

5

6 MR. DEACON: Henry Deacon from Grayling. The
7 concerns that I have have been pretty well stated by Carl and
8 the rest here. But my most concern, too, is that there is
9 increase of wolf packs in our area. And I'd like to see --
10 like yesterday going home I counted 12 moose, and how much of
11 that moose would go to the wolves this winter, is my concern.
12 And is there any study being done about by the Innoko Refuge
13 and the State?

14

15 But one of the good comments I'd like to say is that
16 the State and the Federal did a pretty good job, I think, of
17 increasing their enforcement of law this year on the Innoko
18 and the State, at least, the things that we've been
19 complaining about for the last couple of years has been heard
20 a little. And I can -- I got a call about that from
21 Shageluk, Holy Cross, they're satisfied with it.

22

23 That ends my report.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

26

27 MR. JONES: Yeah, my name is Benedict Jones
28 from Koyukuk, Middle Yukon Advisory. Our concern is this
29 year we had the most heaviest pressure in the Koyukuk River
30 moose management controlled area. We had over estimated 700
31 hunters, that's local and non-residents of Alaska. And we're
32 concerned about non-resident hunters this year that's
33 estimated about 300 of those hunters were from out of state
34 from Alaska. And on our recent meeting in Huslia last week
35 we suggested that we make a moose a big game animal hunt so
36 this way non-residents of Alaska would have to have a local
37 guide to hunt with them. They could not hunt on their own
38 within the refuge game management area. And the moose take
39 -- this year the Koyukuk River is just about maxed out to
40 where we estimated how much moose can be taken and our
41 estimate before was 385 and we had 380 moose taken out of the
42 Koyukuk controlled use area.

43

44 And another concern that we brought up in our topic
45 for the winter hunt is that we change the date from February
46 1st to February 10th, we moved it back from February 5th to
47 the 15th because of the cold weather the first week of
48 February.

49

50 And that's all I can think of right now. We've got

00007

1 more but I can't think of it right now. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Jack
4 Reakoff.

5

6 MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff from Wiseman, the
7 upper Koyukuk River. I live in the Dalton Highway Corridor
8 and my main concern is the number of bow hunters wounding
9 moose. Again, it's becoming more and more acceptable with
10 these bow hunters to try -- they're trying further and
11 further shots and they seem to have an ethics problem. I
12 killed a sheep that had an arrow stuck through its eye.
13 There is moose with arrows stuck on them. Bow hunters told
14 me of shooting at moose at 80 yards and wounding them. And
15 just before I left there was a grizzly bear on the North
16 Slope that somebody had shot at running and was wounded, and
17 the Fish and Wildlife protection was maybe going to have to
18 go up and finish this bear off. So that's -- there needs to
19 be some kind of ethics with these bow hunters. They're
20 becoming more and more unethical in their bow hunting
21 practices. So that's one of my main concerns because they
22 have a high wound loss and that affects the populations,
23 unreported kill like that.

24

25 Air taxi use in the upper Koyukuk. There needs to be
26 some kind of limitation as to the numbers of people that air
27 taxis can drop off. There's air taxi's working out of
28 Bettles that are just saturating the country with -- they
29 have an unlimited amount of people that they can put out and
30 there needs to be some kind of limitation of -- an analysis
31 of how many hunters an area can take and then -- and then
32 those air taxi's have to stay within those parameters.

33

34 Those are the two of the main problems that we're
35 still seeing up there in that country. Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. As many of
38 you know, the bow hunters and the muzzle-loaders have their
39 own separate seasons. And I think that we have to really
40 look closely at that and work with the Alaska State
41 Department of Game. We may have to take some legislative
42 acts to curb some of these muzzle-loader and bow hunter's
43 usage.

44

45 Just for your information -- I mean for the public
46 information, with Ray Collins, Jake Reakoff and myself were
47 reappointed, again, that's just for public information.

48

49 So right now I'd like to go back to Micky Stickman.

50

00008

1 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, I was at the joint
2 committee meeting with Ben in Huslia. And one of the things
3 that they brought up was the controlled use area for the
4 Kaiyuh Flats. In the management area that we're talking
5 about there was a 17 percent increase in wolves so there were
6 -- and they had a couple proposals out. One was for a brown
7 bear every year instead of every four years. And there was
8 24 violations on the Koyukuk River this year, they did catch
9 24 people with violations. So things are starting to look up
10 even though there was an increase in hunters, they were
11 thinking about if they go past the set point again, they're
12 thinking about going to a drawing permit with a 300 limit on
13 hunters with the drawing permit.

14
15 And one other thing was they wanted to move the
16 subsistence hunt five days earlier from August 27th instead
17 of September 1st, and that was another proposal brought out
18 by the joint committees. It was the Middle Yukon and the
19 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee, we had a joint meeting in
20 Huslia. And that is all I can think of right now.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Samson
23 Henry.

24
25 MR. HENRY: This is Sam Henry from Allakaket.
26 Some of our concerns were voiced by the other members. But
27 there's too many hunters coming in every year, there's a lot
28 more coming in just more and more people coming in. And
29 people are finally realizing that what's really happening,
30 you know. For awhile, for a few years, you know, people were
31 kind of looking the other way when hunters were coming in but
32 now -- because of the money, you know, but now they're
33 starting to realize that what they're losing, they're losing
34 most everything and their whole lifestyle and everything. A
35 lot of the old hunters, elders, want to go out and hunt but
36 they can't afford to go out hunt, go way out, you know, and
37 then we're losing our lifestyle that way because the older
38 people go out and teach the younger people how to hunt, you
39 know. A lot of young people are hunting but, you know, they
40 don't understand how the older people used to hunt and which
41 way to keep the meat and cut the meat and stuff like that.

42
43 And the other concern we have is a lot of air boats
44 coming down, a lot more air boats coming down from Coldfoot
45 and up South Fork. There's a couple of guys, I guess, they
46 got caught -- well, they didn't get caught but they got in
47 between, there was a couple of guys that were hunting moose
48 for themselves [sic] and family and the air boats came in
49 between them and they didn't get their moose.

50

00009

1 There was some other stuff in here and I forgot what
2 it was. Anyway, that's just about what we have right now.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Samson. A lot of
5 my concerns are already expressed and a lot of them will be
6 coming up in the agenda. I do not see Randy Rogers, does
7 anyone know if he'll be making it?

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, he'll be
10 coming in tomorrow on the morning flight, and it should match
11 with our schedule.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: But he'll be in tomorrow.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: And do we have the -- do we
18 know if Glenn Stout will be coming in?

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: To my knowledge, when I talked
21 to, I think it was Randy, that Glenn will not be here but his
22 boss, David James will be -- the David James from Fish and
23 Game, not David from Fort Yukon. Toby Budreau will not be
24 here, he's the area biologist for this area but David would
25 be able to cover that.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. One of the main
28 concerns is we're trying to get an intensive moose management
29 within a sustainable yield harvest going in the Koyukuk River
30 and the Innoko GASH area, and that is why I asked for these
31 people and I guess they will be here.

32
33 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I have a couple
34 more concerns.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead and express them.

37
38 MR. JONES: The Koyukuk River controlled use
39 area. The topics we brought up at the Huslia meeting that
40 we're going to eliminate cow hunts during the September
41 season. And the other one was a predator control. So we'll
42 try to open the grizzly and brown bear which is every three
43 or four years, whatever, for one brown bear but now we're
44 trying to make it one brown bear annually for non-residents
45 of Alaska. Because there's too much grizzly taking moose
46 calf in the controlled use area and black bear, too, and
47 wolves.

48
49 That's all I have.

50

00010

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. It is
2 clear that we have quite a bit to deal with within our agenda
3 and our Council. At this time I would like to hear from our
4 invited guests. We did invite Eastern Interior for their
5 attendance at this meeting, so I would like to hear Eastern
6 Interior Council member concerns from both David James and
7 Gerald Nicholia of Tanana. Please introduce yourself and
8 express your concerns, please.

9
10 MR. NICHOLIA: I'm Gerald Nicholia on the
11 Eastern Interior. Tanana borders right on the Western and
12 Eastern Interior borderline and my main concern is, like you
13 guys expressed here, there's a lot of hunters, a lot of
14 hunters with a lot of horns going up the river. And there's
15 a whole bunch of Tanana people that go hunting in Novee and
16 down that area when the water dropped we seen a lot of meat
17 in the river. More meat than we ever seen in the last 10 or
18 15 years. I mean in some places there's a whole moose left
19 in the river. And it's making a lot of people mad around
20 Tanana because we're out there to get the meat and not the
21 horns. And there's a lot of people in Tanana that never got
22 their meat and to compare the prices from Fairbanks and
23 Anchorage to the prices in Tanana, our food prices are about
24 two or three or four dollars higher than theirs. And I don't
25 see this as a sport hunt anymore. I don't see this as people
26 coming out from the city going hunting in our area as they're
27 sport hunting or hunting for meat when we see a lot of moose
28 meat. I mean you go down the river below Tanana from where
29 the Nowitna comes out and you could see right where -- on the
30 banks, on the sand bars, by creeks and everything, I mean
31 it's kind of ridiculous to have sport hunters out there and
32 have rural people trying to provide for their kids.

33
34 That's one concern. Another concern is the fisheries
35 management. I'd really like to see the Western Interior,
36 Eastern Interior and the Y-K get together for the whole Yukon
37 drainage, we've got to work together some how some way where
38 we could get along where the fish could be more readily
39 accessible to the upper Yukon and more or less to the lower,
40 that's mostly what my concern is.

41
42 And another one is bears, bears -- the bears are
43 always killing cows and calves. I mean there got to be
44 allowances for people along the Yukon just to kill them
45 without being regulated so much. I think Alaska people are
46 the most regulated people in the whole US of A, and I think
47 that's really kind of ridiculous, too. There's just too much
48 regulations on us. We're the -- I mean it's just hard to
49 explain that but we shouldn't be that much regulated. That's
50 what my concerns are.

00011

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. David James.

2

3 MR. JAMES: Good morning. My name is David
4 James, I work as a resource manager for 10 tribal villages
5 within the Yukon Flats there. We have a number of concerns
6 concerning us in the Yukon Flats there. The number 1 is,
7 Yukon Flats has one of the lowest population of moose in the
8 state of Alaska. And at the moment we're working on a
9 community harvest quota for the village of Chalkyitsik. This
10 community harvest quota is a very interesting process. We're
11 still going through the education process for the tribal and
12 the community on how this is going to work with the intensive
13 moose management within our area.

14

15 One of the biggest concerns we have is the bears and
16 -- brown bears. Doing the studies that have been done with
17 the State and the Feds was that the brown bears was doing a
18 good 90 percent of the mortality rates on the calves. As
19 Greg will tell you in one of his reports there, I don't know
20 if he's going to mention it but a study had been done by
21 Beaver of where they collared 29 calves, 26 -- only four
22 survived within four months, and -- how much.

23

24 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah, David, it's Greg
25 McClellan. I'm also subsistence coordinator with Yukon Flats
26 and Arctic Refuge. The study David was referring to on the
27 Yukon Flats, moose calf mortality study in '98 was the first
28 year that the study was started and I think a total of 39
29 moose calves were being monitored and after one year only six
30 survived the one year. Most of the mortality was due to
31 black bears and brown bears. And then this last year in '99,
32 there were 29 additional calves collared and then we were
33 also monitoring 12 calves that were with collared cows that
34 we were able to monitor and of those 41 there's still 12
35 surviving as of mid-September, and that's a survival rate of
36 about 29 percent, I believe, which is pretty low for state
37 wide.

38

39 MR. JAMES: Thank you, Greg. One of the work
40 that we're doing within our department is that we want to
41 educate the agencies, the managers of what traditional
42 knowledge is. Traditional knowledge is where the elderlies
43 have already -- and the trappers, local trappers that are
44 living in this area has already documented this years before.
45 And then we're working with the Western technology way they
46 do business and the way we do is they come -- they need to
47 get fundings and their -- and the thing here is we -- they're
48 not listening to the traditional and local trappers. And
49 this is where a new process, a new direction needs to be
50 moved on. And this is one of the reasons why I propose a

00012

1 work session before the meeting. I proposed a work session,
2 we had our first one last week there but it was just the
3 beginning of a work session and the next one is going to be
4 more intense to where just the council members will do it,
5 we'll leave the staff and everybody, the agency people out of
6 the room, and just the council members will get together and
7 they will discuss all these issues. And then we will come
8 back into a formal setting there and proceed with it.
9 Because I see a lot of catching up in this kind of format
10 where we -- we need to be a little more prepared, and I see
11 this in other meetings and in other organizations.

12
13 The other issues we have up there in our area is one
14 of our main sources of food is the muskrats. Agencies is not
15 -- agencies and the wildlife priorities do not meet up with
16 the traditional and local people's priorities, tribal
17 priorities. They are -- they both are in a different area.
18 And when you do your comprehensive land use management plan
19 there's really no input from the tribal people at all. We
20 really have to be part of their five years management
21 comprehensive plan that's put out. The tribal priorities or
22 the corporation priorities, community priorities should be
23 meeting up with agency priorities. And one of the -- and how
24 do we go about that is we need to, you know, agencies also
25 needs to respect the resource managers or techs the villages
26 have in their villages and have more work shops, work
27 sessions, more formal meetings.

28
29 So the other issues we have is our migratory birds,
30 our ecosystem is disappearing big time. Our muskrats are
31 disappearing and what's next, and then our grass, our lakes
32 are all turning into mush -- it's all turning into lakes, and
33 we have the quality of waters coming down the rivers. We do
34 have a lot of water. You know, as I heard from one of your
35 board members that this community gets flooded, so there is
36 a lot of water coming down but it's not getting back into
37 those rates. A restoration project needs to be implemented
38 and three of our villages have implemented restoration
39 projects on their own. Because we -- the villages got really
40 tired of waiting for the Feds. The Fed agencies keep saying,
41 well, we can't do nothing we don't know what happened years
42 before, well, that's just where I get back to not respecting
43 our traditional elderlies. When they were growing up, this
44 is an area that used to be plentiful, what happened to it?
45 We're in the 20th Century now, we need to have a good
46 management plan not only from the agencies but also from the
47 tribe or the people's input because we're the ones that's
48 going to keep this resource going, not only for ourselves but
49 for outside people that's coming in, too.

50

00013

1 The other area is the issues that we're working --
2 one of our elderlies is saying that we need to start
3 enforcing -- we need to start putting our foot down on our
4 tribal -- on our State -- on our corporation land. We need to
5 start implementing some code and ordinance through our
6 department.

7
8 And the other one there is -- another main issue
9 coming up was the airplanes getting the main breeders. The
10 main breeders are not coming down into the flats to breed
11 with the cows before they come down from the high lands. So
12 our department, through Beaver Village and Circle is
13 implementing a plan next year to monitor all these hunters
14 coming over the mountain into the flats there.

15
16 The other issue we have is the caribou. The
17 Porcupine Caribou Herd is one of the two only herds in the
18 northern region of the polar region that had a decline in the
19 last five years. All the other herds had a large increase.
20 And when you have large increase you have predator controls,
21 you know. And one of the things I have a frustration with
22 the agencies, is that, the Porcupine Caribou Herd is the only
23 herd that's been researched to death. Every year it's been
24 researched, researched. I asked for one question last week
25 from agencies and that's never been given to me and that was
26 the predators. How much predators is there on this herd that
27 they don't know. And it's kind of frustrating they don't
28 know how much wolves or how much bears is taking these
29 animals so.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: How much more do you have?

32
33 MR. JAMES:these are some of the stuff,
34 like if we're going to take the role, it's our people through
35 our resource managers tribal to implement it. Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, David. I think
38 that, as you all know, they just met before us so all their
39 concerns came over here and like you said, we should -- we
40 will be working closer together. We did invite Lower
41 Kuskokwim to this meeting and I'm sure that they will be
42 showing up sooner or later. We know that they are meeting
43 right after us or during this meeting, about the same time?

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, they're -- is this the Y-K
46 meeting, Yukon-Kuskokwim?

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I think they start today.

00014

1 I'm not sure, oh, they started yesterday, so they're meeting
2 the same time we are in Quinhagak.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I'd like to thank all
5 the council members for their concerns, and a lot of this
6 will be hitting within our agenda. Yes, Vince.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, several people
9 brought up potential proposals. I tried to capture them as
10 a note but I would encourage them to bring them up when we
11 get to the proposal section so we don't lose them. It just
12 so happened that it's towards the agenda so we have to watch
13 that because we don't know if any of these have been
14 submitted on the Federal side so I think we need to discuss
15 those proposals that were brought up. So it's just kind of
16 a mental reminder to Benedict, who else brought up some,
17 Micky brought up a couple, and et cetera, that we make sure
18 during discussions on the Koyukuk River and elsewhere that we
19 start noting those. It doesn't mean you have to submit
20 proposals but we need to keep track of that.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we're all locked up in
23 one house so you can sit down with us anytime in the evening
24 if we miss something.

25

26 Before we go into agenda additions or corrections, we
27 will again state that we're fairly flexible because Hollis
28 Twitchell and a few others expressed interest to move up on
29 the agenda, and people that aren't here will be moved back if
30 that's fine with the council. Has everyone reviewed the
31 agenda? At this time the Chair will entertain a motion to
32 adopt the agenda.

33

34 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion.

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved and seconded
39 to adopt the agenda. As I stated we're pretty flexible to
40 meet people's travel concerns. Any other additions or
41 corrections? If not, all those in favor of adopting the
42 agenda signify by saying aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

47

48 (No opposing votes)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. The next item

00015

1 on our agenda is the approval of our March 10th through 11th
2 meeting, it's under Tab B. Do you want them read out loud or
3 do you want to just review it? At this time the Chair will
4 entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10th
5 and 11th.

6
7 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to approve.

8
9 MR. JONES: Second the motion.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, give us a few minutes to
12 review the minutes.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the items in
15 there that are lined out were corrections that were submitted
16 over the summer, so hopefully that makes sense to you. Other
17 than that I don't know of any additions other than editing.
18 There was no additions, you know, of content.

19
20 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair, on Page 9 down here on
21 the check station, the Koyukuk River Moose Management Working
22 Group strongly suggests that we have a check station at
23 Huslia.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need more time?

26
27 (Pause)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any more additions
30 or corrections?

31
32 MR. STICKMAN: If there's none I call for the
33 question.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh?

36
37 MR. STICKMAN: If there's none I call for the
38 question.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: The question has been called.
41 All those in favor of approving the March 10th and 11th
42 meeting minutes signify by saying aye.

43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

47
48 (No opposing votes)

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Item 8, Federal Subsistence

00016

1 Fisheries Management discussion. Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, due to the
4 overlap of meetings and all the flurry over State Legislative
5 action and Congressional response and all that, the persons
6 presenting the fisheries stuff is arriving on the 10:00
7 o'clock flight. So if the plane comes in at any minute then
8 she will be here, if not -- it's possible she may not make
9 it, if she doesn't then Ida Hildebrand and myself will
10 present this. So right now we cannot address the fisheries
11 management until the plane arrives.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the options there would be
14 that we could move on to the Chair's report. I could deal
15 with some logistic items that need to be done sometime this
16 morning of dealing with lunches today and tomorrow, things
17 like that, and then when the plane arrives, see if they're
18 available.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the feeling of the
21 Board? Do you want to go to Chair's report?

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: Before we go to the Chair's
24 report, can I say something?

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Micky.

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: Remember up in Huslia we had
29 -- we did something on fishnet sections, mesh.

30

31 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, we brought up the
32 subject of state wide fishing net be reduced to eight inch to
33 six inch so this would give a chance for the female fish to
34 bypass the -- this is for commercial fishing use only. It
35 doesn't affect subsistence fishermen, so it's only for the
36 commercial fishermen to cut their nets down to six inch so
37 this could give a chance for the female fish to get to the
38 spawning area.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, are we going to detail
41 or intensive discussions about fisheries?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: The discussion will be more of
44 a general overview. The issue that they're bringing up is a
45 specific proposal. If I understand correctly, it's going to
46 be commercial regulations. The Federal Board will not
47 address commercial activities, so that might be something
48 that would be better to submit to the Alaska Board of
49 Fisheries on that. We can discuss it when we discuss
50 fisheries, obviously, but the Federal Subsistence Board won't

00017

1 deal with addressing commercial fish net sizes unless it is
2 directly linked to a failure of a subsistence activity on
3 Federal lands. Those are terms we're going to have to walk
4 you through, but right now we're not soliciting proposals.
5 Off the top of my head, I think that starts January 4th, is
6 when we start submitting proposals on the Federal side. I
7 didn't bring my schedule for the Board of Fisheries so there
8 may be a person here that could enlighten us when their
9 proposal period is for the Interior. I don't know the
10 schedule for that. I know Board of Game is up but I don't
11 know Board of Fisheries, when they come back to the Interior,
12 and that would have to be done at that time since the Yukon
13 River is in the Interior for Board of Fisheries.

14
15 I'm not trying to defer the issue, the issues is of
16 a concern but the audience for that is Board of Fisheries.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. And at this time what's
19 our relationship with the Board of Fisheries, for my
20 clarification?

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Well, we're dialogue meaning
23 the -- well, I'll get into that and then it will be covered
24 again later. Basically there's been meetings between the
25 Federal Subsistence Board and representatives of Alaska
26 Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Fishery reps.
27 In addition to that, at the Chair's meetings which Ron was at
28 -- no, due to flight schedules you missed the first day, but
29 anyways, the two regional council chairs sit in on those
30 discussions, and that's Dan O'Hara and Willie Goodwin. Dan
31 O'Hara's from Bristol Bay Regional Council and Willie Goodwin
32 is from Northwest Arctic. I don't know where the latest
33 negotiations are between Alaska Department of Fish and Game
34 and the Board of Fisheries. The person who's coming from
35 Anchorage may know more on that but we are trying to set up
36 a coordinated effort between the two governments, we might as
37 well just say it that way. So right now it's not totally
38 clear how that's all going to work out.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Just for the Board's
41 information, I was in attendance for one day down at the
42 Chair's meeting. And I was named alternate to the Board of
43 Fisheries hearing or discussion or the working group under
44 Federal subsistence. And because of being the alternate,
45 it's a hit and miss proposition. They'll call me a day ahead
46 of time and then I'll be sitting there one day and then the
47 main person would be coming back in, so this being alternate
48 you might as well just drop it, you don't know what you're
49 doing.

50

00018

1 If it's okay with the Board we'll go into a brief
2 Chair's report or the logistics from Vince. Go ahead.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Do you want me to do logistics?
5 Okay. The logistics, what we're getting at, so I don't
6 forget, is that I brought materials for lunch here. So we'll
7 have to set that up because the first day is usually the most
8 productive day. So instead of having people go to find lunch
9 or get lunch we'll have it here if that's all right with
10 everybody. Tomorrow I'll try to get, either from a local
11 person here or myself, a menu from a business that does
12 sandwiches, and if you agree to that, then we'll try to get
13 an order taken. I haven't talked to the vendor but I would
14 assume if we got it to them by 10:00 they could have the
15 sandwiches ready probably by 12:00 or 12:30. So if you want
16 to do that, we can take orders tomorrow and then address that
17 or you can break and go to the different restaurant
18 facilities.

19
20 That is a good way to meet different people and that,
21 it just takes up more time if you want to go somewhere to eat
22 lunch. So what is the wishes of the Council for lunch today?
23 Do you accept the material I brought in? We may need to have
24 someone do a run for sodas or something like that, I couldn't
25 bring those here or drinks of some sort. Does the Council
26 agree to that?

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the feelings? You mean
29 you brought lunch in?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, like I did in Allakaket.
32 Because I've been stretched pretty thin on doing other duties
33 plus the Council meetings back-to-back, I couldn't pull off
34 getting lunches all organized here. So I sense agreement for
35 that. Do we want to agree with trying to take orders
36 tomorrow morning for submarine sandwiches or pizza from the
37 local facility here in town?

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Get both, we'll have a choice.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, you have choices. Well,
42 I assume -- well, Carl may know how quickly they can respond
43 on this. They were making a lot of sandwiches yesterday when
44 I stopped by there?

45
46 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, if you give them a call
47 today then they'll know what to expect tomorrow. But they do
48 have good pizzas and submarine sandwiches.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: So then maybe we ought to get

00019

1 that done today then is what you're indicating?

2

3 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: So by the end of the day I'll
6 try to get a menu here from somebody and then get an order
7 and then we'll play the game of getting cash to deal with all
8 that. Okay, those are the two logistics.

9

10 The other logistic things are kind of agenda related.
11 We've already mentioned that Randy Rogers will be here
12 tomorrow. He's asked to fit in when there's appropriate time
13 tomorrow. He's coming in in the morning and leaving in the
14 evening. I think that will work with the schedule but we'll
15 have to remember that when he comes. Based on Council member
16 concerns, a lot of people are very interested in knowing what
17 happened at the various planning efforts that the State has
18 in the Koyukuk River.

19

20 The other thing is is because of the concern in the
21 GASH area concerning law enforcement efforts and et cetera,
22 the law enforcement and management efforts, Laura Reid will
23 be here, I don't know if she's the acting refuge manager but
24 she's the assistant refuge manager, will be here, hopefully
25 on the plane that's coming in now. She's going to be making
26 a presentation on the law enforcement effort that Henry
27 talked about. I went ahead and asked if Holy Cross wanted to
28 be teleconferenced in on that because of the fact that
29 Angela's not here. I talked to Philip on that and we were
30 originally going to have it Thursday afternoon but there's no
31 phone here so we had to work with the facilities at KNA,
32 Kuskokwim Native Association. They're having -- the Census
33 Bureau is using that facility all day today -- I mean all day
34 tomorrow, sorry, so we can do the teleconference today at
35 3:00.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is Angie coming in at all?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Angie's here.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I mean Angela Demientieff,
44 no, she's not coming in at all. So the teleconference would
45 basically be to inform Holy Cross about the efforts that law
46 enforcement have. I believe they're going to talk about the
47 check stations which is, the desires of Holy Cross is to move
48 that check station, so I think there's some discussion on
49 maybe moving it. I'm not sure. So that would -- it would
50 help with the GASH area. As you know, as you mentioned, Mr.

00020

1 Chair, about the GASH area is watching very closely what's
2 going on on the Koyukuk River. The chief of Holy Cross has
3 indicated that he wants to submit a proposal to do a meat on
4 the bones. So I realize teleconferences aren't as productive
5 as having people here but I think it might be wise to
6 teleconference with them to hear what they're doing with
7 these various proposals, their thoughts on the law
8 enforcement. So Philip was going to let the people in Holy
9 Cross know.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: I still have a problem with
12 that. Holy Cross is just a skip away and they -- I just with
13 they would send somebody else from the council on down here.
14 I appreciate Mr. Hamilton being here and we -- tomorrow
15 morning we do recognize all the Native corporations, tribal
16 councils and everyone else that wants to make a presentation.
17 But we'll look at that and as far as that teleconference
18 goes, we're looking at 3:00 o'clock this afternoon?

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Because that's the only time I
25 can get the place across the way. We'd have to move, just
26 the Council and whoever else wants to go and maybe a tape
27 recorder over there to do this teleconference.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have to tape it?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, it's the record. It
32 would be best to do that, and it keeps us prepared when we
33 have to do this for fisheries. I'm going to be talking about
34 that throughout the meeting, that we have a very good way of
35 running meetings, we're just going to have to continue to do
36 that and be very much on the record so everyone can
37 understand what the Council's doing. And I think we can
38 bring the tape recorder, we won't need the mics or anything
39 like that.

40
41 REPORTER: One or two mics.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Well, one mic, excuse me, but
44 not all the individual mics, maybe two mics at the most.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any comments from the Council
47 members? Do you have more?

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: No, that's all I have. Maybe
50 other team members here do. No. Maybe other agencies, I

00021

1 don't know. We have quite a few. Mr. Chairman, I think Dave
2 Yokel from BLM may have something to share.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Dave, what are your comments?

5
6 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
7 want to say, I think there's some kids coming over from the
8 local school this afternoon around 1:00 o'clock. I don't
9 know if you were aware of that.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's that?

12
13 MR. YOKEL: I think some kids from the local
14 school are coming over here this afternoon at 1:00 o'clock,
15 and I don't know if they want to participate or just listen.
16 But I thought I heard that this morning, anyway.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we've done that
19 in the past. They didn't contact us but that's okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's fine.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: It's that you kind of recognize
24 them and then ask them if they have any questions real quick.
25 And generally they just sit in the room and listen. Some
26 year -- I'm a little bit closer to getting together a kit for
27 classes but some year I'll have that where they could be
28 better prepared and more focused on things, but right now --
29 that's the first I've heard of it but that's good that
30 they're coming, they're the future leaders for this program.
31 And I think we can move chairs or do whatever's necessary for
32 that.

33
34 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

37
38 MR. JONES: In Huslia last week, the Huslia
39 students sat in on our meeting but mostly they sat in on our
40 proposals and listened to our proposals.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: For the record, I'd just like
43 to go on that we do have an agenda and we did it for the
44 convenience of the Board, all other outside interests, hit
45 and miss, like we do at every level. Are there any other
46 comments?

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know of any other
49 logistic items that I know of.

50

00022

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: I understand the coffee is
2 done, maybe we could take a five minute break and get a cup
3 of coffee. Is that fine with the Board?

4
5 (Off record)

6
7 (On record)

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have some guests present so
10 I would like the Council members to reconvene. At this time
11 I would like to call the Western Interior Council meeting
12 back to order.

13
14 As I stated previously, we're pretty flexible. We do
15 have a member from Shageluk, the GASH area, he has a plane to
16 catch so at this time the Western Interior Regional Council
17 would like to recognize Arnold Hamilton from Shageluk. Would
18 you come up to the chair.

19
20 MR. HAMILTON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 Unfortunately I wanted to stay but I've been here for two
22 days and got up this morning and saw the snow.

23
24 I agree with -- I would like to be here for this
25 teleconference but if Holy Cross got some concerns they
26 should send a representative over here. I stayed over on my
27 own. And being in the GASH Committee, we have a hard time
28 with Holy Cross being represented. Being from Shageluk on
29 the Innoko we're the only community on there, we're just
30 south of the Innoko Wildlife Refuge. I hear a lot of
31 complaints from Holy Cross but they always want us to do
32 stuff.

33
34 This year was the first time that -- I would like to
35 have been here for those reports. This was the first year
36 that I seen a lot of enforcement from both the Federal and
37 the State. It's the first time that I can ever recall that
38 they brought a moose in and the horns. Up on the Iditarod
39 it's 50-inch or better and they got a guy from Michigan that
40 got a 49. The next day, I think, they brought one to
41 Grayling that was 34-inch so they were out there. But this
42 is the first time, I think it's a little too late, but I hope
43 they keep that up.

44
45 And then the other concern I got -- I would like to
46 see is wolf control. I mean I'm seeing more and more wolves
47 up there. And I had people tell me that they -- right up
48 river from Shageluk and they see a lot of wolf tracks and a
49 lot of cows with no calves. The people from the refuge
50 disagree with me but these are local people. And I think

00023

1 something needs to be done. Like you'll probably bring it
2 up. I heard that from one of the Council members and bears
3 also.

4
5 That was some of the -- two of the concerns I had.

6
7 And like I said, I would have liked to have been here
8 for the report from the Innoko Wildlife Refuge but I got a
9 plane to catch and I thank you for the opportunity.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Arnold. Just for
12 your information, a lot of the stuff that we're doing up on
13 the Koyukuk River, we're trying to make a good model. And we
14 may possibly introduce it to your area also if it works,
15 hopefully it works. Thank you for your time and your
16 expressions of your concerns.

17
18 At this time I see a few more Staff people have
19 arrived. Could you introduce yourselves, please?

20
21 MS. FOX: Peggy Fox, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
22 Service.

23
24 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch, National
25 Park Service. Staff Committee to the Federal Board.

26
27 MR. BURR: I'm John Burr with Alaska
28 Department Fish and Game, Sport Fishing Division of the
29 Fairbanks office.

30
31 MR. JAMES: I'm David James, Alaska
32 Department of Fish and Game and Wildlife, Fairbanks.

33
34 MS. WHEELER: Polly Wheeler, Division of
35 Subsistence, Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks.

36
37 MR. HUNTER: Paul Hunter, National Park
38 Service from the Anchorage Office.

39
40 MR. ANDERSEN: Dave Andersen, Division of
41 Subsistence, ADF&G.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more? If not, I thank you
44 for your presence and I'm glad you're here because we expect
45 quite a good meeting while we're in this area, and I'll be
46 calling on all of your expertise sooner or later.

47
48 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chairman, is it David James,
49 one and two?

50

00024

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have David James from
2 Eastern Interior and David James from our Staff.

3
4 At this time I would like to -- I see Orville
5 Huntington, introduce yourself and who you work for.

6
7 MR. HUNTINGTON: Orville Huntington, Koyukuk
8 National Wildlife Refuge, Fish and Wildlife Service, that's
9 who I'm representing today. But I also sit on the Interior
10 Regional Council, the villages of Huslia, Allakaket and
11 (inaudible - away from mic). I'm on the Koyukuk Moose
12 Hunter's working group.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. We have more Staff
15 coming in. Go ahead.

16
17 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Mr. Chairman, members of the
18 committee, my name is Vince Golembeski. I'm with the Alaska
19 Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division
20 from Anchorage. And I'll be giving a summary season there,
21 pink salmon and summer chum salmon and some handouts on the
22 season over here on the table. If there's more needed we'll
23 get more.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Gabe. We also
26 have Gabe Sam. Will you stand and you are representing
27 Tanana Chiefs?

28
29 MR. SAM: Yeah, my name's Gabe Sam. I'm the
30 Director of wildlife and parks for Tanana Chief's Conference.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: We do have Peggy here for
33 fisheries. At this time -- go ahead, Ray.

34
35 MR. COLLINS: Laura from Innoko Refuge came
36 in also.

37
38 MS. REID: Laura Reid, assistant manager of
39 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: I thank the Council members,
42 if you have more new people coming in let me know and we'll
43 introduce them.

44
45 MR. MORGAN: There's another person there
46 from KNA natural resources, can you please introduce
47 yourself.

48
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Robert Aloysius. KNA natural
50 resources assistant.

00025

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, like I said
4 earlier, there is a sign-in sheet, and it would help if
5 people would sign in so we could get the correct spelling.
6 And not to make problems or whatever, but it's easier if
7 people come up to the mic or closer to the mic so it can be
8 picked up. And then especially if the class is coming here
9 we'll have to use the mics a little bit more. And I
10 apologize for being on the phone, there is some Park Service,
11 did they introduce?

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, sorry.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fisheries. Federal
18 Subsistence Fisheries Management discussion. Peggy, would
19 you introduce yourself again. Thank you, Mr. Chair and
20 Council members, and I apologize for being late. And I also
21 need to indicate that I will only be here for the day, I have
22 a family member in the hospital so I need to return.

23

24 I'm Peggy Fox with the Fish and Wildlife Service.
25 I'm currently the acting Deputy Assistant Regional Director
26 for Subsistence. And I'm here today to give a presentation
27 on what we're doing with fisheries since October 1st has come
28 and gone.

29

30 We've been preparing to manage fisheries since the
31 Katie John decision in 1995. In the years since this
32 decision we have published an Advanced Notice of Proposed
33 Rule, a Proposed Rule, an environmental assessment and a
34 Final Rule on January 8th, 1999. The Final Rule has now
35 taken effect October 1st. The Advanced Notice of Proposed
36 Rule and the Proposed Rule received extensive public review.
37 We held over 40 public meetings, several regional advisory
38 council meetings to gather comments. Since 1995
39 implementation was delayed three times by Congress. Now, we
40 are actually implementing the Katie John decision. Since
41 January, our planning efforts have intensified. In April we
42 developed an implementation plan outlining 14 major issues or
43 tasks that we needed to address as we moved forward to
44 October 1st, and that plan is in your Council booklet.

45

46 Today I want to share our progress on some of the
47 more important tasks in this plan.

48

49 The topics I'm going to talk about today are the
50 organizational approach. Regional advisory council

00026

1 structures. Extraterritorial jurisdiction. Customary trade.
2 Orientation for the Regional Councils. Fisheries regulatory
3 process and fisheries regulations for your region. Following
4 my status report on each topic I'll pause for questions or
5 comments from the Council and members of the public.
6

7 One of the more important tasks is determining how the
8 five Federal agencies are going to organize to implement
9 these regulations. In developing budgets and staffing plans,
10 we needed to define an organizational approach that would
11 encourage effective coordination between the five agencies.
12 As you well know, fisheries management is far more complex
13 than wildlife management and it calls for a different
14 approach. We began by looking first at how we were going to
15 organize to gather and analyze the information about
16 fisheries and harvest needed to make sound regulatory
17 decisions. The result of this exercise is what we call
18 unified resource monitoring. This approach recognizes the
19 need for the agencies to work together to identify resource
20 monitoring priorities state wide and allocate funding and
21 staff to these priorities. While staff from four of the five
22 agencies will be co-located at key field locations, we will
23 need to establish additional connections between agencies to
24 insure a common direction for the program. A central office
25 in the Fish and Wildlife Service which is separate from the
26 Office of Subsistence Management is being created to
27 coordinate the resource monitoring aspect of the fisheries
28 program. This office will be required to provide the most up
29 to date information possible in fast moving situations such
30 as in-season management in managing fisheries. The
31 administration of this program will remain primarily with the
32 Office of Subsistence Management. This staff will be
33 enlarged with fisheries biologists, council coordinators,
34 social scientists and administrative staff to ensure adequate
35 technical support for the regional advisory councils and the
36 Federal Subsistence Board. Some field staff will also be
37 identified with responsibilities or delegated decision-making
38 responsibility for regulating fisheries in-season management.
39

40 And at this point I'd like to pause for questions or
41 comments on how we plan to organize and approach, in general,
42 the fisheries management aspect of subsistence.
43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Peggy. At this
45 time, this up in the air, I had no real ideas on how to --
46 how we would like to structure anything at this time. And I
47 would like to turn the floor over to Carl Morgan.
48

49 MR. MORGAN: How are you going to organize --
50 are you going to look at what the State has done, you know,

00027

1 what has worked and not worked? Instead of trying to
2 reinvent the wheel, look at what they have done, what's good,
3 what's bad? You know, are you going to look at that in that
4 aspect?

5
6 MS. FOX: Yes. And we have actually been
7 doing some of that already. We have a report that we call
8 the blueprint report. That was the first report developed by
9 a committee that proposed this unified resource information
10 monitoring approach. And that is an attempt to look at what
11 information is out there that the State does have and, you
12 know, what information they are gathering about stocks,
13 fishery stocks as well as harvest. And to try to find how we
14 can supplement that or compliment it rather than duplicate
15 any of the work that they are doing. What we hope is that in
16 the end, the fisheries resource management will be enhanced
17 by the addition of Federal monitoring and information
18 gathering, and we, in no way, want to duplicate what the
19 State is doing.

20
21 MR. MORGAN: Another thing is, you know, I
22 know you've got jurisdiction over Federal waters on Federal
23 lands and the waters adjacent to. Let's say they're going
24 through the mouth of the river which in a lot of cases, here,
25 is Federal, the refuges are down the mouth, now you move
26 further up the river and you hit State control, and that's
27 where the escapement and the fish spawn. Are there going to
28 be some correlation -- you know, these people down there are
29 going to have their subsistence needs met but you go further
30 up the river, those people are not going to have their
31 subsistence needs met plus escapement, and that's where all
32 the fish spawn. Will you have any jurisdiction?

33
34 MS. FOX: Well, as you indicate, the
35 ownership and the management is intermingled. We can go from
36 Federal to State to Federal to State all the way up the Yukon
37 until we hit the boundary. And this is a major challenge for
38 both the State and the Federal managers to try to figure out
39 how we're going to coordinate because we do -- our foremost
40 objective is to protect the resource, we both agree on that.
41 Secondly, we don't want to disrupt existing fisheries. We
42 want to minimize that. We aren't going to approach this in
43 a way that we look, you know, for reasons to challenge each
44 other or are trying to promote any conflict. That's the last
45 thing we want to do. So we will have to look at this as a
46 whole drainage with the State, working closely with the
47 State, and try to prevent things from happening before they
48 happen, recognizing the intermixed jurisdiction all along,
49 for example, the Yukon and the Kuskokwim. We're working on
50 that. That's another topic later in my talk but we're very

00028

1 aware of that and as I indicate, the resource has to be
2 protected first, and second, we need to minimize disruption
3 while protecting the subsistence along the Federal lands.

4
5 MR. MORGAN: Can I follow-up?

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

8
9 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, the reason I'm asking that
10 is because, you know, under the State program, at least,
11 here, they say, escapement, subsistence, sports and
12 commercial is at the end. And when we -- I think we're
13 starting to finally get their opinion changed on -- because
14 commercial seems like it takes a bigger weight than
15 subsistence or escapement. That's what I look at. Because
16 I say there's a problem there, it should be taken to heart
17 that escapement first. Because if the fish don't get the
18 escapement then nobody's going to get no fish. That should
19 always be the priority. Not just to say it but to act on it
20 and mean it. Because I see it in a lot of the State's
21 mission statements or regs -- I don't think it's in the regs,
22 it says escapement, subsistence. Sometimes it's hard to let
23 them follow escapement and subsistence issues first before
24 commercial.

25
26 MS. FOX: We're quite aware that in terms of
27 numbers, the amount needed for escapement, the amount needed
28 for subsistence in a percentage wise is low, very low,
29 compared to the percentages that are set aside for commercial
30 fishing. And I guess one of the first things we need to do
31 is clearly identify where people feel they're not getting
32 their fair share, where subsistence harvest needs are not
33 being met. And once we can do that and, you know, this is
34 all new to us, it may be old to you as to where that occurs
35 but we're going to have to sort that out and then try to find
36 out how we can work with the State to try to manage fisheries
37 down stream. And I have been to King Cove the last week in
38 September where there's little distinction between what is
39 commercial and what is subsistence. And so that's even a
40 more complicated situation and it may well exist at the mouth
41 of the Yukon as well. But for those people that are down at
42 the lower reaches of the river, it's a bit more intermingled,
43 if you will, a bit more complex to them as to where one ends
44 and the other starts. That's their livelihood and they see
45 that as part of their way of life.

46
47 Anyway, you raise some challenging issues that we
48 don't have a lot of answers for at this point but are looking
49 forward to learning a lot more about it and hopefully being
50 able to have some effect as the program unfolds in the next

00029

1 few years.

2

3 MR. MORGAN: I agree with you wholeheartedly
4 on that. Because the well-being of the fish means the well-
5 being of our people up here.

6

7 MS. FOX: Yes.

8

9 MR. MORGAN: It works hand in hand. Thank
10 you.

11

12 MS. FOX: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Do we have
15 any more questions from the Western Interior Council? Please
16 direct this to the organizational structure at this time, we
17 have four or five more issues on down the line.

18

19 MS. FOX: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Organizational structure, go
22 ahead, Benedict.

23

24 MR. JONES: Yeah, my name is Benedict Jones.
25 Peggy, is there going to be any change in the 2000 fishing
26 season like allow drift-netting on the Yukon and stuff like
27 that for kings?

28

29 MS. FOX: Our regulations have already been
30 published, as I indicated, January 8th, that will cover the
31 2000 fishing season. And what you will find in there is
32 there are extremely few differences between the State
33 subsistence fishing regulations and the Federal subsistence
34 regulations, very few. And they're ones that have been dealt
35 with in the past and the Board has already made decisions on
36 them. So for virtually the fishing season in the year 2000,
37 it will be pretty much the status quo, how things have
38 operated under the State system. And again, I'll get into
39 this a little bit later in my talk, but we don't expect to
40 make changes to the fishing regulations under Federal
41 jurisdiction until the year 2001. And those changes will
42 come from the people, through the Councils and as
43 individuals. We do not anticipate making any changes on our
44 own. Those will come from whatever is presented to the
45 Board.

46

47 MR. JONES: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Maybe we should hold off on
50 the questions until towards the end because we're hitting and

00030

1 missing here. We're just discussing the organizational
2 structure of our future implementation of this Federal
3 takeover. And I lied a little while ago because we have been
4 communicating with Eastern Interior Subsistence Council and
5 the Yukon Drainage Fisheries Board, sooner or later we will
6 set up a joint meeting of these three entities in Fairbanks.
7 And I don't know when we'll be addressing this issue. Vince,
8 do you have something?

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: I didn't want to talk about
11 that yet.

12
13 MS. FOX: That's another topic for later.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that one we need to talk
16 later on. But the main one is that there are copies of the
17 implementation plan at the table for those that are in the
18 public here if you want to track along the topics that Peggy
19 is bringing up.

20
21 MS. HILDEBRAND: And the regulations.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: And the regulations, Ida's
24 informed me. Since those two topics have come up,
25 implementation plans, it's called Federal Subsistence
26 Fisheries Implementation Plan, it's over there. The
27 regulations which are in the Federal Register format are over
28 there also. So for those that don't have those -- the
29 Council members have the plan in their book. So I just
30 wanted to let the others know that if they want to track
31 along. And a few more agency people, I think, came in during
32 that discussion.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, just briefly, introduce
35 yourself, please? Anybody else we miss that hasn't.....

36
37 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I'm Jeff Denton with the
38 Anchorage Field Office, BLM.

39
40 MR. STIMSON: I'm Dave Stimson with the
41 Anchorage Field Office, BLM.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. At this time,
44 David James.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there is one
47 other person, I'm sorry that.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to get on the agenda
50 sometime.

00031

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, one more.

4

5 OFFICER BLANK: Andy Blank, Fish and Wildlife
6 Protection.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, let's stick to the
9 agenda from now on and save introductions until we break or
10 something.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. David James, from Eastern
15 Interior, did you have a question, a question only, please?

16

17 MR. JAMES: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Peggy, this question was also mentioned at the Eastern
19 Advisory Board, your structure and your staff and your budget
20 there. I think that communication is going to be the key
21 towards this implementation plan there. And I really believe
22 that a coordinator -- fishery coordinator, you know, from the
23 local regions that works with your staff and in between to
24 get information flowing back and forth, keeping people on top
25 is the key to keeping this plan going. And I just want to
26 put this into your plan there when you go down to Anchorage
27 there, that communication is going to be one of the top
28 priorities.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MS. FOX: Yes, I couldn't agree more. Thank
33 you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions? Again, I
36 emphasize questions on the organizational structure? I think
37 we'll have time to discuss it more later. If not, Peggy.

38

39 MS. FOX: Thank you. The next topic is
40 cooperative management with Native organizations. During the
41 planning effort we kept in front of us the need to work
42 closely with Native communities to support local involvement
43 in the management of subsistence fisheries. During the
44 summer we completed an inventory of fisheries projects
45 conducted by Native organizations. We learned that a large
46 number of field projects are already ongoing. We want to
47 build on this capability as we implement the fisheries
48 program. Naturally it will take several months to identify,
49 design and initiate field projects for cooperative
50 involvement but our goal is to start several projects during

00032

1 the first fishing season in the summer of 2000 and then build
2 a program in future years. Selection of field projects will
3 be based on state wide priorities for information. The types
4 of projects we are considering include conducting village
5 harvest surveys, managing fish monitoring stations to ensure
6 adequate escapement for subsistence and spawning, such as
7 fish wheels, counting towers, test fishing and so on, and
8 cooperative management planning.

9
10 And that concludes my update on that topic so I will
11 pause for questions on this subject.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions from the
14 Council? I feel that questions will arise later because we
15 feel comfortable with our Subsistence Council here and we'll
16 be directing them as we go along. Issue 3.

17
18 MS. FOX: Thank you. Federal/State
19 cooperative management strategy. Just as with managing
20 wildlife, an effective Federal Subsistence Fisheries Program
21 will require close cooperation with the Alaska Department of
22 Fish and Game. This is necessary because the State will
23 continue to have management authority over fisheries
24 throughout the state. With mixed State and Federal
25 jurisdiction, close cooperation and coordination of
26 management activities between State and Federal managers is
27 extremely important. Three meetings have taken place since
28 September of 1998 between the chairs of the Alaska Board of
29 Game and Fish, the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of
30 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Federal
31 Subsistence Board. In the most recent meeting on June 28th,
32 Dan O'Hara, Council Chair for Bristol Bay and Willie Goodwin,
33 Council Chair for Northwest Arctic were also present. These
34 meetings resulted in a mutual understanding of similarities
35 and differences in our positions.

36
37 For example, both State and Federal managers place
38 conservation of the resource as the first priority. Among
39 users, both State and Federal managers, see subsistence needs
40 as having priority over other uses of resources. However,
41 separating rural from non-rural users is where we cannot find
42 resolution, and the State cannot differentiate among
43 residents. Moreover, the Board and Councils want to maintain
44 their existing relationship whereas the State must continue
45 to work with advisory groups who represent a broader
46 constituency. Thus, we will continue to have a separate
47 regulatory process for both wildlife and fisheries.
48 Nevertheless, even though there will be a separate process,
49 we must have a high level of coordination and cooperation
50 between the State and Federal fisheries programs to be

00033

1 successful.

2

3 We've recently established a work group made up of
4 State and Federal Staff to begin defining how the two
5 programs will coordinate. Topics under consideration include
6 how information will be shared and managed. How fisheries
7 management planning will be coordinated. How we will
8 coordinate pre-season, in-season, and post-season. How to
9 coordinate our respective regulatory processes. And how to
10 strengthen the interaction between the Regional Advisory
11 Councils with the local advisory committees. Our immediate
12 objective is to have a draft agreement ready for your review
13 and comment at the January orientation session of the
14 regional councils, or at the latest, at the winter regional
15 council meetings. Our goal is to have an agreement with the
16 State in place during the first year of the fisheries
17 program.

18

19 And I'll pause there for questions on that subject.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions?

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: We had a joint advisory
24 committee meeting with the Koyukuk River and the Middle
25 Yukon, and they had several proposals there. One was put a
26 limit on the mesh size for the nets and another one was to
27 put a restriction on the fish hatcheries.

28

29 MS. FOX: Those are proposals going before
30 the State Board of Fish?

31

32 MR. STICKMAN: Those are proposals going
33 before the State?

34

35 MS. FOX: Board of Fish?

36

37 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: And what's.....

40

41 MS. FOX: Uh-huh.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM:just a quick question
44 then.

45

46 MS. FOX: Uh-huh.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: As you noticed people are
49 already developing or in the process of developing proposals.
50 Who do we hit the Feds or the State?

00034

1 MS. FOX: We encourage you to work with both.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

4
5 MS. FOX: The councils are encouraged and
6 supported to comment on proposals going before the State.
7 And, in fact, we have authorized a Council Chair and provided
8 expenses for a Council Chair, in more than one instance, to
9 travel to a Board of Fish or Board of Game meeting and
10 testify. So that is an option that you have. But I would
11 expect to see more State proposals on your agenda in the
12 future. Ones that you have on your agenda, obviously, but
13 for you to make comment and possibly to support through the
14 Board of Fish or Board of Game process.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have another question?

17
18 MR. STICKMAN: No.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any other questions
21 Federal/State coop? Vince.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we have a real
24 good working with the State counterpart regional coordinator,
25 Jim Marcott. And I've been in dialogue at the local office
26 that we will try to sort out proposals as they come in so we
27 understand which way the go. So it would be best to submit
28 both and then if there's questions, I know I will be calling
29 the proposal authors to make sure it's in the right arena.
30 Because there is confusion out there which way to go with
31 proposals.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I think our hunting
34 proposals are pretty well in place and or organization is in
35 place but what I'm trying to get to is on fisheries, who do
36 we go to, that still is not in place and it has to be. Do we
37 have any.....

38
39 MS. FOX: Who do you go to?

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Right now, yes, as far as
42 fisheries?

43
44 MS. FOX: With fisheries proposals?

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

47
48 MS. FOX: Ones that you're initiating or that
49 you want to see brought before the Federal Board or the State
50 Board?

00035

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Both Boards.

2
3 MS. FOX: Both?

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Both, yes, because we'll have
6 to be working close together. We, like I stated, our --
7 we've got hunting pretty well covered with State, Fed and
8 Native organizations, so fisheries.

9
10 MS. FOX: We're going to be soliciting
11 proposals to change fisheries regulations after the first of
12 the year. So at this time, we're not receiving proposals to
13 change the fisheries regulations on the Federal side. So at
14 this point, if there's anything happening between now and
15 January, I would try to work something through the State and
16 then next year when we're gathering proposed changes to the
17 regulations, maybe compliment it with what might be needed on
18 the Federal side.

19
20 For this year, right now, there's nothing in place
21 for both systems.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: But if we do come up with
24 proposals, we'll just go ahead and shoot it on to the Federal
25 Subsistence Board for now?

26
27 MS. FOX: Yeah, I'll get into that a little
28 bit later.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

31
32 MS. FOX: I'm going to cover that.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

35
36 MS. FOX: So why don't I just wait and go
37 over that with you then?

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any more questions?
40 Regional Council structure.

41
42 MS. FOX: Okay. A couple of years ago we
43 surveyed the councils on the need to restructure the council
44 system in response to common fisheries issues. At that time
45 the councils along the Yukon and the Kuskokwim indicated a
46 need for further discussion on that. As you know the
47 boundaries of three regional advisory councils overlay the
48 Yukon River, that's the Eastern Interior, the Western
49 Interior and the Yukon-Kuskokwim. And then the Western
50 Interior and the Yukon-Kuskokwim regions overlay the

00036

1 Kuskokwim drainage. We recognize the need to develop a way
2 to coordinate fisheries issues between these councils and we
3 are beginning to work with you to promote communication and
4 coordination. And this is going to be a separate topic with
5 an action item for the Council following my presentation.
6 And Vince will take the lead on that topic and provide you an
7 opportunity to give us input on how you think this
8 coordination should occur.

9
10 So at this point I think I'll just leave it at that
11 and let discussion of that topic occur later and I'll move on
12 to the next one, if that's all right.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fine.

15
16 MS. FOX: Thank you. The next one is
17 extraterritorial jurisdiction that I want to talk about.
18 Since 1995 we've been acknowledging the Secretaries authority
19 to extend jurisdiction beyond Federal lands and waters, if
20 necessary, to protect the subsistence fishing and hunting
21 that occurs within Federal jurisdiction. We recognize that
22 management of migratory species such as salmon may require
23 adjustments in allocations down stream beyond Federal
24 jurisdiction to protect subsistence uses. This authority,
25 however, has not been delegated to the Federal Subsistence
26 Board. We further recognize that the public needs to know
27 how this will work.

28
29 Recently we prepared draft procedures for handling
30 petitions requesting such extensions of jurisdiction for the
31 Secretary's review. And a copy of that has been provided to
32 the Council and is available to the public on the table in
33 the back. I believe it's -- my copy is yellow, are they all
34 yellow?

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

37
38 MS. FOX: Okay, this is what it looks like.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's being handed around,
41 thank you.

42
43 MS. FOX: Good.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks, Vince.

46
47 MS. FOX: It's important to note that these
48 powers have seldom been applied by the Secretaries. If there
49 are extreme circumstances in which a fisheries resource is
50 being depleted outside a Federal area to such an extent as to

00037

1 cause a failure in subsistence harvest within a Federal area,
2 the Secretaries can extend Federal jurisdiction to provide a
3 remedy. This process will not follow the normal annual
4 regulatory process. Serious petitions for extension of
5 Federal jurisdiction will involve consultations with the
6 State of Alaska and other fisheries authorities such as the
7 National Marine Fisheries Service as well as a thorough
8 analysis of the best available scientific information. We
9 will advise the councils when these procedures become
10 available.

11

12 Any questions on this topic?

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions from the
15 Council? I don't feel qualified to question this at this
16 moment. I think that further on down the line as we develop,
17 we'll -- there'll be millions of them. Do you have any
18 questions for Peggy? No, go ahead.

19

20 MS. FOX: Okay. The next subject is
21 customary trade. The definition of subsistence uses in Title
22 VIII includes customary trade as a legitimate subsistence
23 practice. In regulation customary trade includes the sale of
24 subsistence taken fish as long as it does not constitute a
25 significant commercial enterprise. This permissive customary
26 trade regulation is designed to permit the practice of
27 selling small quantities of fish to keep this practice
28 separate from commercial sales. We recognize that there may
29 need to be additional regulations to further define customary
30 trade practices on a regional basis to ensure the separation
31 and prevent abuse of the regulation. We are initiating a
32 process to identify those customary trade practices in each
33 region in consultation with each advisory council.

34

35 Again, this is a subject of another agenda item later
36 in the morning and I believe that Ida is going to be taking
37 the lead of discussing this topic with you and getting some
38 input. George -- George is here. Ida and George. Okay.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any questions on
41 customary trade right now?

42

43 MS. FOX: There is a handout on it as well,
44 and mine's purple.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we've got that. Purple.

47

48 MS. FOX: You've got that, okay. Next I'd
49 like to talk about the upcoming orientation session. We've
50 recognized the need for further training and orientation to

00038

1 the new Federal Fisheries Program. Last month you received
2 a notice that we would be conducting an orientation session
3 for all council members as well as agency field personnel in
4 November. Recently we decided to postpone the session until
5 January of 2000. We did this for several reasons. First, we
6 simply did not feel that we could do a credible job with a
7 program of this magnitude in November and that we needed more
8 time to do adequate planning. Some of the details about how
9 the Federal Fisheries Program will work are still evolving.
10 In particular, we wanted to have a better understanding of
11 our relationship with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
12 and as stated earlier, these consultations are still ongoing
13 and are likely to be ongoing through November.

14
15 Moreover, we are only beginning to recruit for
16 fisheries staff and hope to have some of these key members in
17 place by January so that they'll be able to attend as well.
18 The proposed dates and a draft agenda are subject for later
19 in your agenda, and you should also have a copy of the draft
20 agenda in front of you. This is the one, in particular, Ida
21 is going to go over, but she will cover that a little bit
22 later. Oh, you're handing it out now?

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

25
26 MS. FOX: Okay, great, then they can look at
27 it. Good.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: When is the training
30 scheduled?

31
32 MS. FOX: Tentatively it's at the end of
33 January. We don't have that confirmed with a facility yet.
34 But we were looking towards the last two weeks of January or
35 the first two weeks of February, sometime within that window.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: And who are you inviting?

38
39 MS. FOX: All the council members are invited
40 to attend, agency field staff, all the agencies, Park
41 Service, Federal -- or Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM and so
42 on, as well as we will have members of the State Department
43 of Fish and Game there. We will have a real variety, and Ida
44 will get into this in more detail, of speakers and panels and
45 opportunities for regions to caucus. She'll go over that a
46 little bit later, that's an action item for you following my
47 presentation.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Later, okay.

50

00039

1 MS. FOX: Okay, I'll go on to the fisheries
2 regulatory process. The current fisheries regulations cover
3 the 2000 fishing season. However, we will be starting a new
4 fisheries regulatory process for 2001 fishing season later
5 this winter. This process will be similar to the wildlife
6 process, however, the fisheries process will begin with the
7 winter council meetings in February and March. You should
8 have a copy of the schedule for the fisheries regulatory
9 process in front of you or is it on the table?

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: I'll get you copies of it, Mr.
12 Chair.

13
14 MS. FOX: Thank you. At that time, during
15 your winter council meetings we will be requesting changes
16 for the 2001 fishing season. Proposals for these regulatory
17 changes will be evaluated and presented to the councils for
18 their review and recommendations during fall meetings next
19 year. We anticipate that the Board will deliberate and make
20 decisions in December of 2000.

21
22 We'll work with this schedule for probably the next
23 two years and then, with council input, look at any needed
24 modifications. What this schedule does is double up on your
25 meetings in the fall and winter rather than trying to hold
26 four meetings a year. And this, again, was a question to the
27 councils in previous years about how we should try to
28 implement a fisheries regulatory schedule. The response we
29 got was just add fisheries on to the existing meeting
30 schedule rather than do four meetings. So we're going to try
31 that for the next couple of years, see how that works for
32 you. The primary difference will be in the fall you will be
33 making recommendations on fisheries proposals while you're
34 gathering proposals for changes to wildlife. In the winter,
35 you'll be making recommendations on wildlife proposals while
36 you're gathering proposals on fisheries. It's going to get
37 complicated.

38
39 And again, as I previously mentioned, coordinating
40 State and Federal regulatory process is a subject for the
41 State/Federal work group. And this, in itself, may result in
42 some modifications of the schedule in the future if we're
43 trying to coordinate Federal Subsistence Board decisions and
44 Board of Fish and Board of Game decisions. So we'll have to
45 just kind of play this a little bit by ear and see how things
46 evolve over the next year or two.

47
48 Are there any questions on this topic?

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Micky and Benedict, on

00040

1 the proposals, you've got the schedule? This is where we
2 submit the proposals. Any questions for Peggy at this time?
3 Go ahead, Benedict.

4
5 MR. JONES: Yeah, is there any Federal
6 dollars for education purposes for like school? Like right
7 now in Koyukuk, the last three years, the students there have
8 been collecting eggs and doing winter hatchery experimental
9 and when the fry -- they release it sometime in May. So is
10 there any educational money for the weirs or operation for
11 the students to learn?

12
13 MS. FOX: I think that is something that we
14 would give serious consideration but I can't answer you right
15 now. When we start looking at projects, we'll probably ask
16 for suggestions on needs in certain areas. And we could take
17 a look at it at that time. That would fit within the scope
18 of things that we would support but we would need a specific
19 proposal.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, are you going to take
22 Issue 5.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: I'm dealing with regional
25 council structure, I see now. Okay, sorry. Basically I need
26 two things to tell you, is that the materials that discuss
27 that didn't make it here so I'll have to do it verbally, and
28 then I've asked for it to be faxed in. But the Staff in
29 Anchorage is at various meetings. So it's easy to explain
30 verbally but I need to apologize that the handouts are not
31 here.

32
33 MS. FOX: I have one and we could make
34 copies.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, you have one, I don't have
37 any. I can get copies to you later. If I could borrow that,
38 because I need to make it as similar as I presented to
39 Eastern.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: How much time do you need?

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Please?

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: How much time do you need.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, it won't be long. Well, I
48 shouldn't say it that way, it may be -- it's up to your
49 discretion how long it will go. Basically over the years
50 there's been a lot of discussion with this Council, Eastern

00041

1 Interior and Yukon-Kuskokwim as well as comments from
2 different key fishery organizations like YRFDA and other
3 associated groups about the need to have good coordination
4 across the drainage. Now, we have two drainages here we need
5 to talk about. And if I slip and leave off one of the
6 drainages, I apologize for that, but the two drainages are
7 the Yukon River and the Kuskokwim River that we're basically
8 focusing on at this moment.

9
10 As we already discussed earlier, the land status
11 within those drainages, i.e., State, private lands and
12 Federal lands is fragmented. So what we're looking at here
13 is what is the best way to ensure that the regional councils
14 on the Yukon River and the Kuskokwim Rivers can easily work
15 together to develop a unified recommendation to the Federal
16 Subsistence Board. As you know, the Board takes the
17 recommendations from the councils, and as prescribed in law,
18 they have to -- or they generally adopt those recommendations
19 unless they violate a recognized principle of wildlife
20 conservation, they are not based on substantial evidence or
21 are detrimental to subsistence. So there needs to be some
22 way of working this out because the fish start at the mouth
23 and go all the way up and spawn as far away as Canada.

24
25 So again, we've discussed this for the past three
26 years and in general the regional councils have advised the
27 Board that they can take on the additional responsibilities.
28 Peggy laid that out that there would be fisheries at one
29 time, along with wildlife, and that separate fisheries
30 councils are not needed. In addition, in asking about
31 coordination on the Yukon/Kuskokwim Rivers, we recognize the
32 councils intend to address both wildlife and fisheries
33 issues. So what we've gone forward with under this
34 implementation planning is this fall after these rounds of
35 regional council meetings, we're going to conduct a series of
36 interviews with council members, local Fish and Game advisory
37 committees, regional tribal associations like Kuskokwim
38 Native Association and Tanana Chiefs, Council of Athabascan
39 Tribal Governments and Association of Village Council
40 Presidents, and other tribal organizations and fishery groups
41 to get their feelings on how best to do coordination. A
42 summary of those comments and inputs will be provided to the
43 regional council in December and I'm not sure if we're
44 mailing that out but either we'll provide it in December, and
45 in addition bring it up during the training session that's
46 scheduled either in January or February. During the winter
47 meetings you will adopt your formal recommendations after
48 reviewing the materials that are provided from the summary,
49 your preliminary comments now and things like that. Because
50 at your winter meeting is when you deal with your charter.

00042

1 We'll talk about charters later. But if you go with a
2 different way of structuring this coordination it has to be
3 reflected in the charter. And then in summer, June of 2000,
4 the Board will finalize those recommendations to the
5 Secretaries and then the change -- changes in the charters
6 would go into effect for the 2000/2002 charter cycle.

7
8 When we looked at this, and we've talked about this
9 in different ways, in Holy Cross, and in a couple of other
10 meetings, there's -- right now there's three options that
11 we've looked at. That doesn't mean that there's not other
12 options, it just means that there's three that we've
13 preliminarily looked at. The three that are there is the
14 first one is a case by case consultation, which is simply the
15 status quo. When an issue comes up, you've done that
16 extensively with Y-K over moose concerns in Unit 21(E), you
17 did it with moose and caribou concerns in the Kuskokwim
18 drainage, so it'd be a case by case situation.

19
20 The other option is called a coordinating council
21 which would be two members from each of the three councils
22 would serve on this coordinating council, two from the Yukon-
23 Kuskokwim, two from the Western Interior and two from Eastern
24 Interior. This new body would have equal representation from
25 the three councils and the representatives would come from
26 Yukon villages in each region and Kuskokwim villages. So
27 we're going to have to sort out how we're going to deal with
28 that. The goal would be for the councils to reach consensus
29 in recommendations to forward to the Board. The coordinating
30 body would not act independent of the regional councils but
31 would explore and promote common recommendations.

32
33 Eastern Interior did take action on that, we'll talk
34 about their recommendations once we go through the different
35 options. And we do have two representatives here that can
36 explain what they did.

37
38 The third option that was thought of is an 11th
39 Regional Council and this would be set up through a charter
40 and would address Yukon River subsistence fisheries
41 regulations. If we follow that train of thought through then
42 there would have to be an additional regional council
43 possibly for the Kuskokwim drainage, since the Kuskokwim
44 drainage affects Western Interior and Y-k. The membership
45 would be similar in size to the existing regional councils,
46 nine to 11, some odd number that would work for the area.
47 There might be some overlap in membership with existing
48 regional councils. This new council would meet twice per
49 year to submit proposals for fishery regulation changes and
50 to develop recommendations to the Board.

00043

1 So preliminary thoughts are that there are three
2 options, possibly others that you may think of. One is
3 status quo. The second one is a coordinating council,
4 representatives from each three councils serving to foster
5 coordination, and the third one is a completely new regional
6 council or two, depending on how you view on Kuskokwim River
7 and the Yukon. And I will have copies of this but that is
8 generally what's on the document.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: So are we looking for action
11 at this time?

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Your formal action
14 doesn't have to happen until the next one but it would help
15 the group, I'm on that committee with Ida and a couple other
16 Staff, when we talk to others to know where this Council is
17 thinking at this moment. And Eastern has already put in
18 their preliminary.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Recommendation.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS:recommendation. And Y-K
23 is meeting as we speak so I don't know where they're at.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do any of our Western Interior
26 Council members have any feeling at this time in any
27 direction? I do. And I'd like to expand on it maybe with
28 some help on it from our Council here. I know that Eastern
29 has already acted and I am glad that we invited them down
30 here.

31
32 But my feelings on this is that we would have to set
33 up two from Eastern, two from Western and two from Kuskokwim.
34 As I stated before, I serve as an alternate and you'll be
35 overrun by the coastal people. There's no way that we could
36 act, even though they show some concern about us, total
37 concern at some time but then they're out there to protect
38 their areas, the coastal region, where most of the commercial
39 fisheries are being done. And at this time I see no other
40 course but to form our own with two from each council. That
41 would leave you with six, and I would just recommend that you
42 elect a chairman and leave his vote out, leave five voting
43 members. That's as far as I've one on this issue and it's up
44 to the Board if you want to take action now or bring it up
45 later.

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

50

00044

1 MR. REAKOFF: Has consideration been given to
2 the coordinated council stance for reaching consensus on
3 multiple issues and then a case by case for the more complex
4 issues for the full councils or can you have like a little of
5 each for that or does it have to have like one of those three
6 proposals?
7

8 MR. MATHEWS: You can come up with your own,
9 whatever option you want to. The charge of this coordinating
10 council would be to work by consensus and then feedback to
11 the standing councils. Logistically and all that, we have to
12 really work on that but that's how that would be set up.
13

14 MR. REAKOFF: Another question I have is what
15 did the Eastern Interior select?
16

17 MR. MATHEWS: I would rather, so I don't get
18 it.....
19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.
21

22 MR. MATHEWS:so it's most accurate, I
23 try to do everything positive, I'd rather have the
24 representatives from Eastern Interior explain their action.
25 I do have notes from it if they need something filled in.
26

27 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, we picked
28 coordinating council with two representatives from Y-K, from
29 Western and then Eastern. But the way we put it is that
30 these -- this coordinated council will only deal with
31 overlapping proposals that affects all three regions. And it
32 wouldn't have no power to -- it's like a working group
33 committee that will work to explain each region's position to
34 each other and what else did we put in there? We put a
35 couple more other things in there, too, that would -- well,
36 we wouldn't have no power to say nothing or anything until we
37 -- it would be more like these three regions will have two
38 representatives to hash things out and to work together so we
39 wouldn't have no conflicting issues or positions that will
40 adversely affect each other. That's why we picked that.
41

42 Because we knew we would have to work along together
43 with each region because the fish don't know where the lines
44 are at.
45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions, Jack?
47

48 MR. REAKOFF: No.
49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, David.

00045

1 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chairman, Ron. The other
2 issue, too, we talked about there is developing a new
3 organization. Since this organization here, this Federal
4 advisory council has been in place and it's already been
5 developing -- developing another 11th council, we'll have to
6 go through the whole cycle again, whole different process
7 there. And since this organization has already been in
8 place, and it's been doing a good job for the Eastern part
9 there, so we decided to go along with this advisory council
10 instead of reinventing the wheel again.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
15 Council member concerns or questions?

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

20
21 MR. REAKOFF: I, personally, kind of like
22 what the Eastern Interior's done, it's kind of like that
23 moose planning team answers back to the advisory committees
24 and to the regional council. So I kind of like their
25 approach.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any further
28 comments or questions? Vince.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you don't have to
31 make a formal recommendation but it sounds like you're at
32 consensus of supporting the coordinating council, does that
33 seem to be the reflection of the Council members?

34
35 IN UNISON: (Nodding affirmatively)

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: I take it with heads nodding
38 that that's the case then. The question I don't want to lose
39 on there is that you have two drainages. And I don't know if
40 they need to be separated or not, I'm not pushing that. I
41 just -- I'm biased towards the Yukon River because of my past
42 experience so I apologize for that but we do have the
43 Kuskokwim to deal with. The two representatives from this
44 Council, I suppose, could be up to speed on both drainages.
45 But that would be a pretty large task to deal with. So maybe
46 your recommendation might to be to have this coordinating
47 council, one for the Yukon and one for the Kuskokwim but I
48 don't -- remember then that means four of you are off doing
49 fisheries and realize it's -- it could be a fair amount of
50 meetings. I suppose what I'm really saying is it's going to

00046

1 require the same dedication you have now but possibly more to
2 sort through those issues.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. I would
5 expect more responsibilities. Because if we're looking at
6 two from the Yukon River, you would knock out the Koyukuk
7 River and the Kuskokwim but then we have -- we have both Ray
8 and Carl here and we could automatically put them on. So
9 we're still looking at -- you know, Kuskokwim, too, you know.

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I don't know what Y-K, but
12 I assume they will be separating these drainages or at least
13 discussing the separation of drainages. And your
14 recommendation will go to them even though they're meeting
15 now. But I'm sensing that you would support a coordinating
16 council for each drainage, is that the wishes of the Council?
17 I don't have a problem with consensus at this point, doing it
18 this way. I think when we get to the formal one we may want
19 to go through recommendations and stuff -- motions, excuse
20 me. But at this point, I think we're comfortable, if by
21 consensus, you would agree to a coordinating council for each
22 drainage.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray, do you have something?

25
26 MR. COLLINS: Yes. Just from the workload
27 alone, for just two people to represent this Council on both
28 of them, that would really double the load for those members
29 so I think they have -- they should be separate. Plus to get
30 up on the issues, you know, I couldn't -- I certainly
31 couldn't speak for the Yukon, I could speak for the upper
32 Kuskokwim, and could get up on those issues maybe but it
33 would be too much, I think, to try to stay up with the issues
34 on both rivers and represent both, so separate councils I
35 think would be better.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida, do you have something to
38 add?

39
40 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA, Staff
41 Committee member. To inform you that the Yukon-Kuskokwim
42 Delta Council has been, for the last three years, selecting
43 or recommending representatives from both the Kuskokwim and
44 the Yukon, with the foresight of going into fisheries. So
45 they have already begun the process of thinking that these
46 people will represent us on Kuskokwim issues and these people
47 will be knowledgeable about Yukon issues. And I have no idea
48 if they're recommending two committees or not. It is
49 certainly the prerogative of this Council to recommend two
50 committees or to even increase the number of representatives.

00047

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: I still feel comfortable with
2 having two of our members seated on this proposed board. I
3 know that we can't covered all but whoever we elect here --
4 whoever we elect as chair will be sitting right in the middle
5 of everything. Many of you know that I've attended quite a
6 few workshops with both the Federal Subsistence Board and the
7 State Board working groups, so I think that automatically
8 we'll have three members involved. Whether we can safely
9 cover all the issues is another issue or problem. But I
10 think that with the expertise that we elect into these
11 positions we can work it out. Like Ray says, it's pretty
12 hard to cover everything. I was just totally lost at these
13 fisheries meetings because we never really addressed
14 subsistence fisheries with Western Interior Subsistence
15 Council before.

16
17 Is there any feelings right now? Do we have to act
18 on this because I think it will take a lot more thought to --
19 let's take a consensus now. Do you want to go with three
20 Interior councils or do you want this -- two members from
21 these three subsistence councils or do you want something
22 else or do we need more time?

23
24 MR. COLLINS: Well, I lean towards having two
25 separate ones. I think just for the -- again, time of
26 meaning, if one council had to deal with both then all those
27 members are sitting there through all of that discussion. If
28 they're separate and the Kuskokwim would meet, maybe their
29 issues are easier resolved or not but at least they'd be
30 focusing on those and not be having to also wait until the
31 other group -- or until you discuss that river before you
32 could get to this river. You could focus on what you were
33 most interested in.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: So I guess what you're
36 proposing is a separate council for Kuskokwim and a separate
37 council for Yukon?

38
39 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: He's recommending except a
42 coordinating council not a complete.....

43
44 MR. COLLINS: Right.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

49
50 MR. COLLINS: A coordinating council.

00048

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that makes sense.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: I feel that the people who live
8 on the drainage would have the most say. So the two
9 coordinated councils I think would work better, and
10 especially going with what the Eastern Interior did with only
11 -- only coordination over like salmon issues that are of
12 contention with both councils, you know, white fish or pikes
13 or something else; they can deal with that within their own
14 council.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: So any other concerns or
17 recommendations from our Council? We are dealing with one
18 complex issue that will totally impact all of us so this may
19 take more time. Should we set aside time and come back this
20 or do you want to go on and beat it around some more?

21

22 MR. STICKMAN: No, I think it's best that we
23 go with the two separate, I mean once that's decided.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, this is just a
26 preliminary recommendation. You're going to get the summary
27 from all the interviews that Ida and myself and others will
28 be conducting. This is just to let your neighbors know where
29 you're thinking at this moment. And then obviously the next
30 meeting you could review it and come up with something else.
31 It's just to get an idea of where your thoughts are now.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: So there's no real action
34 needed at this time?

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it would help, you know,
37 if you, by consensus.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS:you agree to what seems to
42 be two coordinating councils by drainage.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Benedict.

45

46 MR. JONES: Yes, this is a pretty big region,
47 area, how are we going to divide, like the GASH area would
48 have to have one representative, if we're getting a council
49 member, you know, where is our borderline for Middle Western
50 Interior council for the fishing. So I suggest that one from

00049

1 Kuskokwim River drainage and one on the lower Yukon so it
2 would be two separate areas there.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'm totally lost. Gerald.

5
6 MR. NICHOLIA: Mr. Chair, what we kind of
7 hashed out there up in Eastern Interior is what we thought,
8 we had a big region, too, what we came up with is me and
9 David, David from the Fort Yukon area because he's up in the
10 Yukon Flats area, and they picked me because I was on the
11 upper Yukon and Tanana River drainage, that's why we got
12 picked for this discussion here. And I'll probably be
13 representing the Tanana area, both the Yukon and Tanana River
14 drainage because I'm on the Tanana/Rampart/Manley advisory
15 committee for the State, too, so I do a lot for them.

16
17 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Ida.

20
21 MS. HILDEBRAND: It's called an action item
22 but actually all we needed to do was to hear your comments.
23 Your comments are being recorded by Tina, we'll have the
24 transcripts and we will report your comments as well as every
25 other regional council comments back to you in our summary.
26 So if your Council isn't ready to take a vote by consensus or
27 to make a motion or otherwise, that's fine, you have made
28 your comments for the record.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: I see merits on all the
31 recommendations at this time and we cannot just drop them.
32 They all carry weight and they're all there to protect our
33 people on both drainages. So do we want to continue on or
34 come back to this issue later, maybe tomorrow? Think about
35 it?

36
37 MR. JONES: I think come back to it tomorrow
38 if we have time.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: As I look through the agenda
41 we will have more than enough time, I think, later on. Any
42 more comments on this issue? Vince, we'd like to come back
43 on this. Number 7, customary trade, who's doing this?

44
45 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chair, my presentation
46 isn't going to take very long. It's hoped that the Council
47 will take 20 minutes to a half hour or more to discuss this
48 openly. And I don't know whether you want to take this up
49 since it's almost noon now, or have me make the presentation
50 and you discuss it afterwards or we just pick it up

00050

1 afterwards?

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Since we have already -- we
4 have lunch packets and it's here, I'd just like to continue
5 through Issue 8 if that's fine with the Board?

6

7 MR. COLLINS: You mean seven?

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, seven and eight, maybe,
10 or do you want to break? It's your discussion, your choice.

11

12 MR. STICKMAN: We're already here we might as
13 well get through it.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Page 7 if you're going to do
16 it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Page 7.

19

20 MR. SHERROD: Issue 7 has to do with
21 customary trade. And the intent of having it broke out and
22 separate is to have the councils dialogue on this and provide
23 the Staff and eventually the Board with information that can
24 start this process. As Peggy pointed out, customary trade is
25 a recognized practice within the regulations and that it's
26 defined fairly openly, and I'll read the definition here.
27 Oh, it's this purple paper, I'm sorry, the purple paper I had
28 passed out at the break.

29

30 Customary trade is defined as the cash sale of fish
31 and wildlife resources regulated in this part, not otherwise
32 prohibited by Federal law regulation to support personal and
33 family needs and does not include trade which constitutes a
34 significant commercial enterprise. It's important to note
35 that neither legislative history, judicial findings or
36 regulations provide a distinct definition of significant
37 commercial enterprise.

38

39 The goal right now is that the Federal Subsistence
40 Board is asking the regional advisory councils for
41 recommendations in describing and defining customary trade
42 practices for their region, and a process for addressing
43 common concerns that have been identified. In other words,
44 we would like not only information about what this body and
45 other regional councils think, customary trade and barter or
46 general exchange is, but also input into a process on how we
47 might ensure that abuses may not take place in the future.
48 Which direction we should be moving on this.

49

50 We're beginning this process with this meeting.

00051

1 Subsequent to this meeting there will be a research endeavor
2 started and we'll be going back and looking at oral
3 histories, ethno-graphics and other sources to try to
4 document what's in the historic record concerning customary
5 trade and barter. At your next meeting there will be a
6 progress report provided and further advice sought in terms
7 of perhaps field work that might take place the following
8 summer and so on. Hopefully a year from now there will be a
9 draft report provided to the regional councils for their
10 review and comments before it moves forward to the Board.

11
12 At this time it is the hope that the Council will
13 assist in starting to define and describe these practices.
14 And in a step in doing that, we, the Staff, has presented a
15 set of sort of beginning definitions that hopefully will
16 elicit comments and see what the body thinks. It's important
17 to note, I suspect, that we're looking at this on a regional
18 basis and my understanding as the information flows in from
19 the different regional councils, there's been a wide array of
20 responses to this topic.

21
22 If you look at the bottom of the first page, barter
23 there is described and basically is described as the exchange
24 of subsistence fish or their parts for other subsistence
25 foods. In other words, you're trading subsistence resources
26 for subsistence resources. Barter/trade, the exchange of
27 subsistence fish or their parts for other subsistence foods,
28 cash or other items, that is, the exchange of salmon strips
29 for beluga, but then the sale of, perhaps beluga for cash or
30 other items. This allows one item to be converted into
31 additional items and not limiting trade from, each you trade
32 it you eat it, and that has been suggested in the past in
33 some cases. If you trade for strips you've got to eat the
34 strips, you can't trade them or sell them or do something
35 else with them. Tradesman, this is a person who barter or
36 trades subsistence foods or parts for barter, cash, exchange
37 on a regional basis. And basically this individual would
38 have to be a subsistence user, he could not be someone that
39 engages in this for commercial profit only and it would allow
40 an individual that might trade items from down river, up
41 river and so on. It provides the role of sort of the
42 traditional middle man, something that was common,
43 particularly in the Norton Sound area amongst the coastal
44 Eskimos and so on. Customary trade, the trade of subsistence
45 fish or their parts for cash that does not amount to a
46 significant commercial enterprise. Commercial fishing, and
47 this is sort of the opposite extreme, the catch and sale of
48 fish solely for the purpose of sale in the commercial fishing
49 industry.

50

00052

1 And as I said, the hope now is to have a very open,
2 round-table, type discussion as how we should proceed on
3 implementing the provisions for commercial trade -- customary
4 trade, excuse me, not commercial trade, into the upcoming
5 regulations. And with that I turn it back over to you
6 Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Do we have any
9 questions for George? Any comments? You are soliciting
10 comments and recommendations?

11
12 MR. SHERROD: Yes, I don't -- questions I
13 don't have the answers for. I'm looking for the answers to
14 come from you, so comments, yes, please.

15
16 MR. COLLINS: I'll start.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Good, Ray.

19
20 MR. COLLINS: We had some of this discussion
21 before but to get it on the record, I think one of the most
22 significance item of trade that I've seen in most recent
23 years is in fish strips. In the upper Kuskokwim where I live
24 around McGrath, and the people in Nickoli, they traditionally
25 put up strips there but the salmon runs are really
26 diminished. There aren't that many king salmon up there and
27 people aren't out in fish camp now they're going firefighting
28 and other things in the summer. And many of them now buy
29 their fish strips, often from the Yukon, which helps people
30 over there that are going to fish camp and so on. And that's
31 been going on now -- and that's -- the salmon strips is a
32 subsistence food, but they find it easier, especially older
33 people now who can't get out, to buy those strips than to put
34 them up themselves. And that certainly should be allowed to
35 continue, that kind of use. In fact, that's the only source.
36 You can't get fish strips commercially. Because of all the
37 regulations you have to go through they wouldn't be fish
38 strips anymore. They'd have to be cooked at a certain
39 temperature and all these kind of things and you end up with
40 no more strips, so that's going to have to be allowed if
41 people are going to get those strips.

42
43 For the historical record, when I came in '63, some
44 of our dog food was also being supplied by the Yukon.
45 Bundles of fish were mailed to the trading post at Medfra
46 because up there, again, the diminished runs, people could
47 not often put up enough fish to feed their team all winter
48 and their first choice was still fish and they would buy
49 these dry fish from the Yukon. Now, that was -- with the
50 decline of dog teams, that's faded out. But so it was going

00053

1 on for a long time, the commercialization of some of those
2 traditional foods to support the traditional lifestyle.

3
4 That's my comment.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Does anyone
7 else from the Council have any recommendations or comments at
8 this time?

9
10 The only one I had is that I just wish we could just
11 strike that customary trade. Because I don't see any real
12 customary trade practices -- I don't see any real commercial
13 enterprises on this. I think that it's just something that
14 we've been doing all our lives, whether it was cash or trade
15 for similar food.

16
17 Any further comments for George Sherrod?

18
19 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: So the main, key word here is,
24 significant commercial enterprise, and that's.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's it.

27
28 MR. REAKOFF:what you're trying to get
29 the Council to define is what significant is?

30
31 MR. SHERROD: No, at this time we're not
32 trying to get the Council to define what's significant, we're
33 trying to create sort of an information base that documents
34 the type of activities that have taken place in the past and
35 that are taking place right now. Ray's example that -- I
36 mean without some avenue to allow individuals to trade fish
37 strips for cash, you'd be depriving elders or a segment of
38 the population from participating in subsistence. And
39 subsistence being to include the consumption as much as the
40 production of the resource.

41
42 We may never get to having to deal with what
43 constitutes a commercial subsistence enterprise, again, we
44 may, but at this point in time the goal is to acquire as much
45 information as possible and have that information available
46 to the regional councils and the Board in the event we have
47 proposals or we have cases that appear to be abuse of the
48 regulations and that these bodies have to deal with them.

49
50 Commercial trade is not something that is -- we know

00054

1 it occurs but it's not readily documented in a lot of the
2 literature and other sources because it, in many cases, could
3 be interpreted as, how should we say, bordering on the
4 illegal or illicit so it's not something that's well
5 documented. And we're not out here to try to document
6 illegal activities, we're just trying to get information and
7 feelings. I mean I think Ray's comment was very good, that
8 if the intent is to allow the persistence of a subsistence
9 lifestyle, then you have to accommodate at least a limited
10 amount of sale or exchange. Or in the case, like the
11 definition of tradesman, we have to accommodate individuals
12 to move resources from one region perhaps to another. And
13 that's the kind of information we're hoping to get and the
14 comments from this group will aid, greatly, in sort of
15 starting this process.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Samson.

18
19 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chairman, you know that
20 barter and trade or customary trade has been going on for
21 years, I don't know for a couple centuries, I suppose. You
22 know, in some areas, you know, you don't have berries and you
23 trade for fish or dry meat or whatever, some kind of meat or
24 seal oil or whatever and that's been going on for years and
25 years. And if there's any abuse of the customary trade, I
26 suppose it's just a very little -- very few cases.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other comment?

29
30 MR. STICKMAN: How would it affect like
31 someone like me, like I go back to Huslia and I trade my salt
32 strips for dry meat, I mean not a large amount but just
33 enough to make a difference anyway to people who want dry
34 fish on the Koyukuk River.

35
36 MR. SHERROD: Well, that's what we're trying
37 to gain information on these activities and hopefully be able
38 to allow them. And again, there's tremendous differences
39 across the regions and the report and stuff should help you
40 understand those.

41
42 I know, for example, out of the Lake Clark area,
43 there's a practice of putting salt fish in five gallon
44 barrels -- pails, that winds up in Anchorage and is traded
45 for groceries that are then sent back. But those aren't
46 types of practices that are readily documented in the
47 literature.

48
49 So, no, what we want is you to -- basically your
50 opinion, is that a subsistence activity, Micky? Is that

00055

1 something you think should be protected and be allowed under
2 the regulations. So that's the kind of information we're
3 trying to gather right now and we'll try to gather over the
4 next year.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: My feeling is that until you
7 define what is the significant amount, your borderline what
8 subsistence -- what's commercial -- until you define that
9 line, I don't think you'll be gathering much information
10 because people will continue to trade dry meat for fish
11 strips. And you know that practice is going on. What I'd
12 like to see is the borderline on where your subsistence
13 versus commercial? Until then I don't think that we can
14 really come up with too much information.

15
16 Ida.

17
18 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, Ida
19 Hildebrand, BIA, Staff Committee member. In response to
20 defining a significant commercial enterprise, that was
21 brought before all councils last year and the councils
22 basically, across the board, refused to define it at this
23 time stating that there is no one definition that would work
24 state wide and, therefore, in some future date they would
25 like to reserve for themselves the right to define it. And
26 at this time all we're asking for is, what are the types of
27 patterns? What are the things that go on now in your region?
28 For instance, Michael just stated he trades strips for dry
29 meat up in the Huslia area or somewhere, it's not to say what
30 you're doing is wrong but it's to say what is being done?
31 Obviously Samson addressed almost every one of the, berries
32 for seal oil or various kinds of meats or meats from another
33 area. Those are the patterns of use that have been ongoing.

34
35 I could go into a whole list from this area but
36 that's not why I'm here, I'm here to hear what your Council
37 members. And it isn't for you to give the final definition
38 at this table but to begin that discussion.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. Since this
41 issue needs -- I mean both the State and Fed's concern over
42 this, I would like a brief synopsis from David. What's that
43 survey that you're doing, house to house, in each village up
44 in the Yukon/Koyukuk River area? Could you take the mic,
45 please. I think this is the only way that we could gather
46 information. This is one avenue.

47
48 MR. ANDERSEN: Dave Andersen, with the
49 Division of Subsistence, Department of Fish and Game in
50 Fairbanks. And Mr. Chairman, the survey that we do house to

00056

1 house in the 10 villages, I was going to give you a report on
2 year three that we just completed this year, later on in the
3 agenda, I think it's on tomorrow. We don't have any
4 information on there relevant to barter and trade, per se,
5 although we do ask about sharing patterns on the big game
6 items that we're asking about. So we ask, did households
7 receive or give moose meat away or bear meat or caribou meat.
8 So we do have statistics on that.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, I think what I'm getting
11 at is at what cost could we put a program like this into
12 place? What is it costing you right now to get this survey?

13

14 MR. ANDERSEN: My budget last year for the
15 survey project in 10 communities was, in round numbers, about
16 50,000. That includes my time to oversee the project, that
17 includes paying the local people in the villages and the data
18 analysis and the write up of it. That's sort of the total
19 package.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does anyone have any questions
22 for Dave?

23

24 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering what an
29 additional question included in that questionnaire about
30 customary trade of fisheries fish resource, it would be a
31 negligible amount, wouldn't it?

32

33 MR. ANDERSEN: Yeah, I mean it wouldn't cost
34 anything to add -- well, there would be maybe a little
35 additional data analysis cost, I mean every time we try and
36 add a question -- we've resisted adding questions to that.
37 Right now we're calling it a big game harvest survey and the
38 time of year that we go in there and we're asking people
39 about their harvest is -- is timed to come right on the heels
40 of their spring harvest period for caribou in moose. So we
41 went around with this on -- we were asked to ask some
42 waterfowl questions a few years ago and we thought long and
43 hard about it and decided that we'd keep it a big game
44 survey. You start getting into other things and you got to
45 wonder if you're going into the community at the right time
46 to ask the questions and get the information that you're
47 looking for. So we'd have to think about adding a question
48 on there that dealt with fish, especially.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any more questions

00057

1 for David? If not, thank you David. The reason I brought
2 him up there is that this is just one avenue that we could
3 take to gather that information. I don't think this Council,
4 alone, could handle it. And again, like David Andersen
5 stated, all this information is provided by the individual
6 voluntarily, and I think that's the only kind of information
7 that could gather. But again, like what you're searching
8 for, I still don't know.

9
10 MR. SHERROD: Well, Mr. Chair, I mean it's
11 possible that we will embark on more intensive information
12 gathering but it's a time consuming process and I think we'd
13 be looking at several years down the road. There's also 260
14 plus rural Alaska communities, Dave was talking about trying
15 to do just 10. This body is here, in large part, because of
16 their knowledge of the region, of the practices. They are
17 granted the ability to make decisions that affect's people's
18 lives if this was a proposal, and it was the Board's intent
19 to make sure that the regional councils had a very active
20 part in this. And that's not to coerce you into saying
21 anything if you don't want to, to participate, and as I say
22 we have another avenue going forward but this was primarily
23 an opportunity for you to share your information with us and
24 also provide input. And certainly, Ron, your suggestion that
25 maybe we should look at field base research will be part of
26 the report and will be taken back.

27
28 I guess that's the only comment I have on that.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments on
31 customary trade?

32
33 MR. STICKMAN: How would that affect someone
34 who puts enough fish away for their own personal use but they
35 also put an extra amount away to trade for cash?

36
37 MR. SHERROD: Well, that's -- at this point
38 we're just trying to gain information. But potentially a
39 year from now there may be a proposal in front of this body
40 to limit the amount of fish that someone can put away for
41 cash or to prohibit trading fish for cash. That's not the
42 question we're trying to deal with now. Our goal is to try
43 to gather as much information as possible and have that so
44 that the Staff has that to bring to this body in the event we
45 get proposals trying to prohibit activities. Because as the
46 law is now, it's very permissive, very open and implies that
47 just about anything that is not a significant commercial
48 enterprise and we don't know what that is, or potentially is
49 not abusing the subsistence opportunities of other
50 individuals will be allowed. We just want to try to educate

00058

1 the Board, the Staff -- as Staff changes, we're bringing on
2 new Staff, and the councils about practices going on in other
3 areas. So this is an information gathering exercise at this
4 point. And maybe a year from now or two years from now
5 there'll be proposals and there will be decision-making
6 practices. We're just trying to get as much information
7 collected and have available to assist this body in dealing
8 with those kinds of questions that you're bringing up now.

9

10 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

13

14 MS. HILDEBRAND: George, that hand out that
15 had those terms on it, is that available to this Council?

16

17 MR. SHERROD: They have it in front of them.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have it.

20

21 MS. HILDEBRAND: If not at this meeting,
22 sometime in the near future, perhaps you could read that and
23 send it in to your coordinator saying whether you agree with
24 those terms or those terms or meaningless or else do they
25 reflect the practices in this region.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

28

29 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I think it is
30 important that if you have information that we get it on the
31 record now because in a sense that will be defining what
32 significant is. If it sounds like there's not much going on
33 and then all of a sudden they do a study and find out later
34 on that a lot's going on, they don't know whether that's just
35 starting now or -- do you see what I mean? What's going on
36 now is more or less acceptable or has been accepted. And by
37 documenting that, you're at least showing that there's that
38 level of use there and it's legitimate. This is what people
39 are doing, they're buying fish strips. And it's as much for
40 consumption as it is to make money. I mean somebody makes
41 money off of it but that helps them carry on their lifestyle,
42 too, but it's providing traditional foods to people that
43 couldn't get them any other way.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Samson.

46

47 MR. HENRY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, you know,
48 there's one guy I know he made about 300 pounds of strips and
49 he kept about 50 pounds for himself and sold the rest. And
50 for me, C&T, customary trade is just like the two kind of

00059

1 elderly ladies that I know of, they don't have any means of
2 getting moose meat or fish. They live in a city, and they
3 pick berries and there's no berries where these other people
4 that have dry meat and fish, so they -- she trade -- they
5 both traded fish and dry meat for the berries, and for me,
6 that's customary trade.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that it? Any further
9 comments? Benedict.

10

11 MR. JONES: Yeah, on the commercial side of
12 it, there's no market for salmon strips because the food
13 distributors would not accept salmon strips because it's
14 not.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: FDA approved?

17

18 MR. JONES:cured -- yeah, is not cured
19 enough. So we don't have no market for cash basis on those.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that point.
22 Anything further? That's a point well taken and should be
23 entered into the record. Anything further? If not, let's
24 take a lunch break and give some serious thought and
25 discussion about our fisheries board, advisory board --
26 what's that board you're trying to form now, on the
27 fisheries, two from each region, what do you call that -- co-
28 related?

29

30 MS. HILDEBRAND: Coordinated council.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, coordinated council.
33 Give some serious thought and please discuss this with your
34 neighbors and the impact. And let's find some time to bring
35 it back on the floor for further discussion. It's now 12:16,
36 let's take a -- how long do you want for lunch, one hour?
37 Let's get back before one hour -- one hour from now.

38

39 (Off record)

40

41 (On record)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: It is now 1:27 and I'd like to
44 call the meeting back to order. There's been quite a bit of
45 discussion during lunch about our regional council structure
46 on fisheries. There was quite a bit discussed about
47 customary trade. And since we are going to bring up the
48 regional council structure back up later, we'll go ahead and
49 bring up the customary trade issue again.

50

00060

1 At this time I'd like to get into Issue 8 with Ida
2 Hildebrand or Vince Mathews. Ida.

3
4 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Ida Hildebrand, BIA, Staff Committee member. In your packet
6 you should have a form that looks like this, it's the
7 training session that was originally scheduled for November.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: This one?

10
11 MS. HILDEBRAND: No, that one. Yes. To
12 begin with, these topics on the agenda, you still have time
13 to comment to either ask that they be deleted or something be
14 added that's really important. However, these topics were
15 drawn from comments from all the regional council chairs.
16 The Chairs offered approximately 29 comments and other
17 Federal Staff offered more comments for a total of 39
18 comments and that's what's formed the topics of this training
19 session.

20
21 And on the first day, Day 1, those large blocks in
22 the general session indicate that all participants will be in
23 the same room listening to the same speakers or the same
24 panel and it will be a broad brush overview of those topics.
25 Yes, sir.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida, I'm still wondering who's
28 invited and who's putting on this training; would you go into
29 that, please?

30
31 MS. HILDEBRAND: Sure. Invited people are
32 every regional council, of all 10 regional councils, every
33 member of those councils. All Federal Staff that work for
34 the Office of Subsistence Management and the Federal Staff
35 that work in the field. The training session is being put on
36 by the Office of Subsistence Management.

37
38 And before Day 1, on the day of travel when the
39 council members come into Anchorage that night, there's
40 supposed to be a reception and an opportunity for the council
41 members to mingle and say hello and start formulating their
42 issues and concerns and ideas. On the first day after the
43 opening remarks from the Board -- the Federal Subsistence
44 Board will be in attendance, at least, for the first day and
45 the closing. Some members will be in attendance throughout
46 the training. There will be an open floor. And open floor
47 means that all council members or all councils will have an
48 opportunity to state issues or concerns that are important to
49 them or that they feel need to be stated in a public forum.
50 It's not to stand on a soap box but to raise issues that are

00061

1 of concern.

2

3 The lunch hour on the first day, they'll have a
4 keynote speaker while you're eating lunch there at the
5 meeting place. someone will be addressing you. The keynote
6 speaker has not yet been identified but there have been
7 several suggestions.

8

9 In the afternoon session is back into, again, general
10 discussion of the broad-brush or big picture. And the
11 evening session is available for caucuses at the call of the
12 regional council Chair. For instance, you, Mr. Sam, could
13 call a caucus of this council or you could call a caucus of
14 this council and the Y-K and Eastern Interior Councils to all
15 meet together. There'll be rooms available for councils to
16 meet together for inform discussions.

17

18 On the second day, those smaller boxes indicate
19 workshops or breakout rooms. And during the workshops,
20 there'll be more specific data given to you or information
21 given to you, an opportunity to ask questions that are
22 specific to your region.

23

24 The three boxes at the bottom indicates other
25 workshops. So you might want to let Vince know what
26 workshops you're interested in attending. And there may be
27 -- on the third box, not the same topic but another topic may
28 be offered on that third box.

29

30 On that second day, the middle one with the
31 conflicts, conflict resolution -- user conflicts and
32 resolution procedures, it is hoped that after that session of
33 an exercise on conflict resolutions you'd have time to
34 discuss that over lunch. And in the afternoon sessions, that
35 large box is, again, for regional council caucuses that you'd
36 be able to use some of that information with coming up with
37 ideas on how you could resolve conflicts or user conflicts in
38 your area or that are of a specific interest to any given
39 council.

40

41 There are no evening sessions that night, you'll be
42 ready for a break by then.

43

44 On the third day it begins with breakout sessions
45 again. And then beginning of a general session, of a panel
46 discussion, that begins the wrap up of the training session.

47

48 Then you're on lunch on your own on the second day
49 and the third day and after lunch on the third day, the wrap
50 up session continues that began before lunch and the floor

00062

1 is, again, open for comments from the regional council, and
2 closing remarks.

3
4 The speakers or presenters on all three days won't
5 necessarily be only one person. Any one topic could be
6 presented by a panel or, for instance, three people giving
7 different segments of the same discussion. An example would
8 be I could have presented something on customary trade and
9 someone from ADF&G could have given a part of that
10 presentation, and someone from other Federal agency Staff
11 could be giving a part of the presentation. And some topics
12 may well be only one speaker but the speakers have also been
13 -- there are suggestions, but they have not yet been selected
14 and there are also suggestions from various councils that
15 some of the council Chairs would participate in panel
16 discussions.

17
18 And as that agenda -- depending on if there are any
19 hot burning issues from any councils, so far no council has
20 offered anything new, then we would draft the final agenda
21 and in that final agenda we'd identify who the speakers or
22 presenters or panels were. The November date was postponed
23 for the reasons Peggy stated this morning, and the new date
24 is probably going to be on the week of January 25th and that
25 will be determined by the contract of whatever space is
26 available during that time.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that January 25th also
29 tentative?

30
31 MS. HILDEBRAND: (Nods affirmatively)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions or comments?

34
35 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

38
39 MR. JONES: I just wanted a clarification on
40 the marine waters, does that mean the Yukon drainage and the
41 ocean water?

42
43 MS. HILDEBRAND: Marine waters are, for
44 instance, in Southeast Alaska, within the Tongass Forest,
45 there are some marine waters but it would -- it would come to
46 the mouths of rivers as you've indicated. But there are
47 certain parts of the state that have real specific questions
48 about marine waters. And there will be clarification on the
49 definition of marine waters at the time of the training
50 session.

00063

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions? I
2 would like to recommend that all Board members that can
3 attend, attend this because we will be dealing with the
4 fisheries also next year.

5
6 Do you have anything else to have, Ida?

7
8 MS. HILDEBRAND: Just again to remind you to
9 let your coordinator know which workshops you'd be attending
10 and if any of you for any reason are unable to attend, to
11 please let him know as soon as possible because hotel
12 reservations and travel reservations are already being
13 prepared.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. I expect a big turn out
16 from both sides, the States and Feds and the Native
17 communities. So if you make reservations make them early
18 please.

19
20 Any questions on this January training sessions? If
21 not, I would like Ida to briefly cover the prework that we
22 have been doing on fisheries, while we're on this subject,
23 regional chair's meeting, just a brief synopsis.

24
25 MS. HILDEBRAND: Okay. Well, on the training
26 part there has been a Federal Board field trip that included
27 a Federal Board Staff Committee and a few people from the
28 Office of Subsistence Management. Dan O'Hara from the
29 Bristol Bay Council, Willie Goodwin for the Northwest
30 Council, and they basically went on a charter up the Yukon
31 down to the mouth of the Yukon and up the Kuskokwim back to
32 Anchorage, stopping at various locations and discussing
33 subsistence fisheries and other fishery uses with local
34 people, and getting to know the river and how extensive that
35 river is and how vast the uses of fish are. And there have
36 been other meetings with the State that Peggy discussed this
37 morning. And whenever there were meetings that discussed the
38 Federal/State fisheries coordination, Board meetings, Ron Sam
39 was also invited to attend as the alternate for Willie and
40 Dan and, in fact, often attended with Willie and Dan, and the
41 discussions of what are the issues -- the burning issues that
42 will demand immediate attention and coordination with the
43 State. And emphasizing again that the State is still
44 managing State waters and Federal management is of Federal
45 waters.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. As I stated
48 earlier, I was selected as an alternate, but like I said, I
49 just hit one meeting in the middle, I didn't hit the first
50 one or the last one so there was no continuation and,

00064

1 therefore, I have very little to report except that the
2 Federal Subsistence Board is really trying to coordinate this
3 issue. And Vince asked me if I wanted to go down there but
4 I had some conflicting schedules otherwise I would add on to
5 both Ida and Peggy's report.

6
7 Do we have any further comments from the Council on
8 fisheries? If not, I would like to go into Item C. I'd like
9 to hear from Gerald Nicholia from Eastern Interior, again,
10 just a brief synopsis of your people's -- your Council's
11 recommendation.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, are you
14 talking about Item C, wanton waste or are you talking about
15 a different item?

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: This is right under the
18 November training session.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay, sorry.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have anything else to
23 add, Gerald, on your fisheries?

24
25 MR. NICHOLIA: Only that I'd like to see all
26 three councils get together. One thing about the Yukon-
27 Kuskokwim Delta that you could have one representative within
28 this -- within this Western Interior region, you could have
29 one person from the Yukon and one person from the Kuskokwim
30 sitting on, that way you could probably resolve it from
31 having the two coordinating councils. Instead of two
32 coordinating councils you'd just have one, pretty much -- I
33 know it'd be a lot of work for some of you but I'm pretty
34 much committed in the Eastern Interior for the whole Tanana
35 River from Northway all the way to the mouth of the Tanana
36 River and part way up to Yukon towards David and part way all
37 the way to Ruby.

38
39 I would like to mention another thing, too, I hardly
40 see any representation for the Nowitna region within the
41 Western Interior. If you have any questions about that I
42 would be happy to try to answer them or accommodate your
43 questions or anything about that.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have anything, Vince?

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: No. I think what he's touching
48 upon there is nominations for the council and it's --
49 communities have to put forth the recommendations or comments
50 for people or they got to submit. And so Ruby has been a

00065

1 concern for the team here and we just haven't had people
2 really apply for positions on Western Interior. Since Ruby
3 is the next closest village to the boundary and they depend
4 heavily on the Nowitna area. So Gerald brings up a very
5 important point, that there needs to be good representation
6 for that area, but right now presently we don't have anybody.
7 And Pete may have more on it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Pete.

10

11 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, I concur with what
12 Vince just said about Ruby's dependence on the Nowitna area
13 for subsistence resources. But keep in mind also, there's
14 BLM land to the north of there in the Balosey Valley, that
15 they also use in the winter time.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: We haven't had any issues from
18 them and the option we would do then would be to try to get
19 representatives in. We did have an issue awhile ago that
20 came up and then it was deferred. I think it was a proposal
21 that Tanana IRA submitted but that would be our back up,
22 would be that if an issue, no matter where it is, comes in up
23 in your region if you don't have a person right from that
24 area, you charge us and yourself to get people to participate
25 and then we can look at bringing them in depending on the
26 issues.

27

28 Right now there's none on Nowitna. My understanding
29 for Ruby and that is they're watching closely the Koyukuk
30 River planning process. So everyone's looking at the Koyukuk
31 River so that's why it's a major topic here because they want
32 to see how that plays out and then see if it has implications
33 for the Nowitna, if it has implications for the Grayling,
34 Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross area, et cetera, et cetera. So
35 we do have a back up but it's not as good as having a
36 representative right from that area, and that's why Gerald
37 wanted to come here because they're dependent on the NOVI
38 also, the Nowitna area.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Didn't we invite them to
41 all our meetings, Ruby?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Who?

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ruby?

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: No, we didn't -- we send them
48 draft agendas and stuff like that but we've never invited
49 them because the invitation implies that we would do funding
50 for them. They know the meetings, they know when they're

00066

1 happening, they could come but we don't officially invite
2 them. We just haven't.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could we sit down sometime,
5 you and I, and see what we can do?

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we could work things out.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: I think when we get into
12 fisheries you guys will want to explore subcommittees, and
13 we're going to have to charge to look at areas that may not
14 have as much representation as you would like and then work
15 with subcommittees and address that. There's all different
16 aspects of doing it. But right now there's no issues that I
17 know of from Ruby.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: It has been concerning me
20 because since we are getting into fisheries, I think that
21 we'll need their help and input in developing policies. So
22 we should keep that in mind. Because I haven't seen them at
23 any of our meetings and it's beginning to concern me more, I
24 know they have some concerns.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: What we have in there, as Peggy
27 pointed out, that we're looking at strengthening the
28 relationship between the council -- this Council and the
29 local advisory committees, and Ruby does have a -- that's a
30 single advisory committee. So that is another aspect that is
31 there. And all of you, I think, all right, that may be too
32 rash for me to say, but I think most of you are on advisory
33 committees. But there are other ones that we don't have
34 representatives on, Ruby is one.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Oh, pardon me, we
37 did have a Ruby representative at our Galena meeting, she
38 drove down with her snowmachine. She was an advisory member.
39 So we'll have to find a way to work closer with them. Do we
40 have anything else on the November training session?

41

42 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

45

46 MS. HILDEBRAND: On the November training
47 session, we'll also, again, be discussing customary trade and
48 regional council structures and many of the issues that were
49 presented this morning. And as far as, before I forget about
50 it, there is in your materials a letter or resolution from

00067

1 Ruby regarding trapping and their opposition to the ban on
2 trapping. And they are aware of this Council and do know
3 that if they need help that they can contact -- it's obvious
4 in their statement that they could contact this Council.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

7
8 MS. HILDEBRAND: And as far as the November
9 training session, besides giving you opportunity to hear
10 various speakers, addressing topics that are important to
11 you, there is also ample opportunity for the Federal agencies
12 to again hear your recommendations and how you formulate
13 possible resolutions to problems in the various regions.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Do we have
16 anything more on the January training session? Do you have
17 anything to add, Peggy?

18
19 MS. FOX: No, I don't.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

22
23 MS. FOX: But if there are questions I'll be
24 here the rest of the day, though.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Now, if we're done
27 with Issue 8, we'll go into reports. The Chair's report, I
28 was snowed in here, it was May, and I missed the first two
29 days of the Federal Subsistence Board meeting down at
30 Anchorage. I just attended that last day because of the
31 weather. And one of the issues that came out earlier, the
32 harvest of brown bears and black bears. One of the proposals
33 that really stuck in my mind was the one that the Federal
34 Subsistence Board passed at that time, was the one where they
35 kept the season -- the taking of brown bears open year-round
36 in the Eastern Interior Region because it -- because it is
37 not a subsistence item, it's more of protection of life and
38 property that a -- their proposal went through. We do not
39 depend on brown or grizzly bears for subsistence so it hasn't
40 been that much of an issue even though it should to the
41 Western Interior Regional Council because of our -- because
42 these animal's predation on caribou and moose calves.

43
44 And most of the day that I attended that meeting was
45 hung up on the Kenai subsistence use proposition that came
46 before the Federal Subsistence Board. They went ahead and
47 moved to recognize a lot of communities along the Kenai
48 Peninsula as subsistence users, and all the Chair's backed up
49 their decision so that's being put in place.

50

00068

1 That about covers my attendance at the Federal
2 Subsistence Board meeting.

3
4 Under Council Chair's involvement with planning and
5 coordination efforts with the State. I attended a few of
6 these training sessions under fisheries and it was mostly a
7 learning experience for myself because we've been heavily
8 involved with game management instead of fish. But I do feel
9 that the Federal Subsistence Board has a good program in
10 place and a good beginning. We had quite a few intensive
11 training sessions and I was in attendance of two. But like
12 I said, as an alternate I couldn't cover all of them.

13
14 Any questions so far from the Council? Do you have
15 anything to add, Vince?

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: No, I think you summarized the
18 Board meeting. And several of your members have had exposure
19 to the Board process. And Ida already covered one item, I
20 believe, or maybe it was Peggy, that the Chair's meet in
21 private session, all 10 Chairs the evening before, which has
22 been quite productive for the Chairs and then the next day
23 they meet in executive session with the full Board, and that
24 also has been quite productive in addressing issues that are
25 better to discuss in those formats than in a public meeting.
26 So those are important things I keep reminding, because some
27 of you have not attended these meetings, and you may be
28 attending because the Chair can't attend or it's best that
29 you go so you understand that structure, and that the Chairs
30 get to -- all Chairs get to -- well, get the opportunity to
31 talk about all proposals, not just their region's proposals.
32 Ron commented on several other proposals because he knew of
33 different issues. He's speaking as an individual and that's
34 clear to everybody when he does that but it gives the
35 opportunity for the Chairs to understand about an issue that
36 is not in the region but may affect them. So it's -- at some
37 point we may need to bring in other members so you have
38 exposure to that so you're better prepared to handle that.
39 Ron had it as fill-ins a couple of times and then now as
40 acting. Ray's been there. Carl, I believe, has been there
41 for one or two. And we'll assist you. But once it starts
42 going it's a meeting just like this, everyone sits around the
43 table and works things out as best as possible.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: In that light, I would like to
46 commend the Federal Subsistence Board because they really do
47 make you feel a part of the operation. I guess Ray and Carl
48 can attest to that.

49
50 Do we have anything else, any comments on the Federal

00069

1 Subsistence Board? If not, I'd like to go into B, Regional
2 Council member's reports and concerns. And again, for your
3 information, this -- we have Staff available and we'll be
4 heavily dependent on them to cover most of these reports. I
5 see a lot of our members who are working with the Koyukuk
6 River Moose Management, and quite a few other areas that we
7 do cover. We have Henry here, too, from the GASH area.
8 Number 1, Vince, State and local Fish and Game advisory
9 committee meeting, what did you have under there?

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think -- you know, this
12 agenda is put together in July and everything looks a certain
13 way in July and then when October comes around it looks a
14 little different. I think on this, with your concurrence,
15 since we're going to teleconference with Holy Cross, that we
16 would, at that time could talk about, if Henry agree's
17 because he -- are you a member of the GASH Committee?

18
19 MR. DEACON: (Nods negatively)

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Henry would still have to
22 agree that we could hold off on talking about the GASH area
23 for the teleconference, the GASH being Grayling, Anvik,
24 Shageluk and Holy Cross.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are we still scheduled for
27 3:00 o'clock?

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: We're scheduled for 3:00. The
30 phone works, hopefully the satellite will work and everything
31 else works.

32
33 The Koyukuk River and middle Yukon, my
34 recommendation, again, you could do what you would like it's
35 your best judgment, would be to save that for when there's a
36 full discussion on the Koyukuk moose planning. Because it
37 will be disjunct if we talk about the committee meeting and
38 then go through what the whole planning process is. And
39 Randy will be in unless David has different word, he's coming
40 in tomorrow at 10:00, so it might be -- if you're on that
41 committee and -- Jack's on that committee and Benedict's on
42 the planning group and one of the committees, maybe to wait
43 on that committee discussion until we have the full Koyukuk
44 River planning on the floor.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: That is what I was going to
47 ask for because I would be heavily dependent plus I'd like to
48 question Randy extensively since I missed both those
49 meetings. With the consensus of the Board, could we wait for
50 Randy Rogers tomorrow on this?

00070

1 IN UNISON: (Nodding affirmatively)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, and that would be the
4 same with the GASH, the GASH Committee. Because Ken Chase
5 was going to be here but I think weather prevented that.
6 He's the Chair of the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy
7 Cross Committee.

8

9 This section is set up just for others to report
10 because all of you are involved in multiple boards and groups
11 and et cetera. So that leaves you with someone wants to talk
12 about tribal village council meetings. The next item, you
13 know, if you do want to do that is commission meetings. You
14 appoint to Denali, and that's all you appoint to. There's no
15 one here, you know, that your -- your appointment person is
16 not here to speak. It may be better to wait on that
17 subsistence resource commission meeting. Hollis Twitchell
18 could probably cover that. You do have Ray here also. I
19 don't know when you want to do that, again, when you put
20 these agendas together it's clear in July but it's a
21 different picture in October.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: I understand Hollis has to
24 leave tomorrow, too, tomorrow morning sometime. Don't we
25 also appoint to the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence?

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. But I don't think any
28 seats are up now.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: One is up? One is up, okay, I
33 stand corrected. There is -- I know you appoint to Gates, I
34 didn't know if their seat was up and that's Pollock Simon, is
35 the one you appointed before. And then your other
36 appointment for Denali, I'm drawing a blank, so maybe Hollis
37 -- maybe this would be a time to clear that up.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the consensus of the
40 Board, I'd like to take care of subsistence resource
41 commission meeting. Jack, could you fill me in on this, do
42 you have a meeting out of Anchorage scheduled?

43

44 MR. REAKOFF: There's a joint Chair meeting
45 of the Subsistence Resource Commissions, and that meeting is
46 supposed to be held on October 19th, and Pollock Simon is
47 Chair of Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
48 and I'm vice chair and will be attending that meeting. We
49 had a Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
50 this spring, the main discussions were about user conflicts

00071

1 and a draft of our hunting plan format and we still have
2 continued -- we had input into that hunting plan booklet and
3 then there's -- we were supposed to have a meeting in August
4 but we didn't meet a quorum in the Shungnak so our next
5 meeting for the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
6 Commission will be in November, middle of November sometime.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack.

9

10 MR. MORGAN: I see here in the agenda, State
11 local Fish and Game advisory committee, is this where the
12 State Fish and Game advisory committee's give their report if
13 they want to address us?

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: This would be the opportunity
18 if they're here to do that.

19

20 MR. MORGAN: Okay, I'd like to recognize
21 Herman Morgan. He wants to address this committee. He's the
22 Chairman of the Central Kuskokwim State Fish and Game
23 Advisory Committee and he'd like to address and give his
24 report.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's fine, and then
27 we'll handle Hollis after that. Okay, Herman Morgan.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, also Herman
30 Morgan is a past member of this council and should be
31 recognized and I apologize for Jack Reakoff of forgetting
32 that he's on the Commission for Gates of the Arctic, sorry.

33

34 MR. H. MORGAN: My name is Herman Morgan, I'm
35 the Chairman of the Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory
36 Committee. We serve area from Lime Village down to Lower
37 Kalskag and it's pretty interesting times in fish and game
38 management right now, the Federal government having control
39 over fishing. And I'd like to give a short report on our
40 recent meeting in Kalskag where we brought up some fishing
41 issues. And there's been talk of maybe to avoid confusion to
42 kind of work together when we make our proposals so one
43 concern we had was if the Federal proposals are kind of lax
44 or they're more strict -- more customary and traditional use,
45 the State land that are still in the State control are going
46 to see increased pressure, especially when these sport
47 fishing guides and sport hunting guides, so it's a pretty big
48 issue. And that is a problem with dual management.

49

50 We talked about two proposals. One is to protect

00072

1 spawning grounds because of some concerns. We're putting a
2 proposal to close off some spawning areas from Buckstock on
3 up Anvik River, shallow areas where the chum salmon are
4 spawning to protect our salmon. We're trying to do all we
5 can. And also we're advocating or proposing the catch and
6 release only for grayling, dolly varden, trout because what's
7 happened is there's so much sport fishing activity in the
8 spawning ground, they're cooking like grayling and trout and
9 something and eating them and that's having a big impact on
10 our local species. But I've served on this committee for
11 almost 20 years and I'd like to give you a word of advice.
12 When you manage salmon you look at the big picture. Look out
13 in the Bering Sea what them trawlers are doing. They're
14 catching billions of pounds of pollack and cod and they're
15 salmon by-catch. You know they're taking a big bite out of
16 the food chain. And boy, you know, we got to be careful here
17 in Alaska, we got to protect it and make sure that's not
18 hurting our salmon. And also them guys in False Pass, you
19 know, who knows how many -- how many chum salmon they're
20 throwing away because they're not supposed to go over the
21 limit. Because they're playing a game and they're
22 diminishing returns, you know, they kept the cap at 400,000.
23 There's no more salmon around Nome so they're working 400,000
24 maybe from our area, it's like playing Russian Roulette.

25
26 And also the spawning grounds up there. Another
27 important issue you should consider. I understand the
28 Federal government is giving Alaska \$15 million or something
29 for salmon protection. I think what I would propose, in our
30 meeting we talked about it, is to buy back some of those 700
31 salmon permits down lower river, that's too many. Offer some
32 of them -- getting down to 300 -- offer them fishermen like
33 30,000 apiece, that will give them an opportunity to start
34 their own business. It will also give these other people,
35 when they fish, the river won't be so crowded, they'll be
36 able to make more money. And I know, speaking as a
37 commercial fishermen, up here in Aniak, I think we need a few
38 more permits up here and maybe just start something up here,
39 too. Because when they used to have commercial fishermen, it
40 brought \$100,000 in local economy. Not only to the fishermen
41 but to the people who depend on it, too, for workers to buy
42 their net from so, you know, there's ways to help the salmon.
43 But one way to buy back some of those permits, maybe KNA can
44 look into it or something.

45
46 That's about all I have.

47
48 You know people are looking to the Federal government
49 to protect subsistence, and I kind of hate to say it but
50 we're sure seeing a lot of treaties that haven't been honored

00073

1 when the Federal government's dealing with the indigenous
2 people and I hope this isn't one of them. I hope you guys
3 live up to your word and protect subsistence. Because
4 Alaska's one of the last places on earth that's not
5 destroyed, you know. If you look at Earth, it's like an
6 oasis, we're supposed to have domain over it, not destroy it.
7 Protect the salmon and habitat, especially, a lot of human
8 waste up there, a lot of things you don't see. So if we're
9 going to save our salmon because it's on the road to
10 extinction we've got to do drastic things, and you know, just
11 because of greed and money, that shouldn't override our
12 decisions.

13
14 Any way, I should turn it over to Mark, he put a
15 proposal on -- he's the newly elected Aniak member so maybe
16 I'll turn it over to him. He put a proposal on one effect we
17 see about guiding.

18
19 MR. MATTER: Very simply it was just a
20 proposal to move up taking of furbearers, wolverine,
21 especially, to November 1st and not allow non-residents or
22 even residents, as far as that goes, hunting with guides to
23 take wolverines during the fall hunting season. We're
24 getting unfair competition in our area from these guides and
25 all their clients. They're taking wolverine, especially and
26 that's about the only valuable furbearer we have right now in
27 this region for the local people. And from August through
28 September, they're legally allowed to take wolverines with
29 their hunting. So when they're going to all these spike
30 camps all around the hills from August through September,
31 they're hunting off the same spike camps and they're having
32 all these carcass piles that are adding up and they're just
33 bate stations is all they are. They're pulling the
34 wolverines in and they're harvesting a large number of
35 wolverines. And I don't think the local people need that
36 competition so a simple little proposal to the State Board of
37 Game which we proposed was to move up the harvesting of
38 wolverines to November 1st. And that would give the
39 residents an even keel in taking wolverines and not allow
40 these non-residents to take these non-prime wolverines during
41 the fall hunting seasons. Most of these guys have moved in
42 over traditional trapping areas and they're going to be
43 taking game, moose and game regardless, and caribou, but I
44 don't think the area locals need to have this competition for
45 their wolverines. Most of them don't know that they're
46 taking them. And the wolverines aren't any good at that time
47 of year but I don't think they really mind, they just want to
48 shoot the wolverine because they're there.

49
50 Anyways, that's just basically the proposal, it's

00074

1 very simple.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: For the record, could you
4 state your name and your organization for the record?

5

6 MR. MATTER: My name is Mark Matter, I'm just
7 a local resident here in Aniak.

8

9 MR. H. MORGAN: He's a new member of the
10 Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee. I was
11 going to add one more thing on salmon. We're seeing a lot
12 more boat traffic up Aniak River and I think there's 50
13 guides registered for Aniak, sport fishing guides, you know.
14 And I know the waters -- they go through the Federal
15 jurisdiction of Unit 18, you know, and if you're trying to
16 protect those subsistence people there, you know. Another
17 problem we're seeing with all the boats up river, these big
18 boats, they're washing the minnows on to the shore. I don't
19 know how many people this guy -- even the own guides that
20 work up there just say, geez, do you see all those dead
21 minnows on the shore. One guy when he quit, he said, boy,
22 when the big boats pass that's no good. Even some of these
23 guides who are operating up there, they're supporting our
24 proposal. So there's a lot of things affecting our salmon.
25 There's a lot of increased use so we all got to work together
26 to protect the salmon.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think it's
31 great that Herman and Mark are here. There are State
32 representatives here. I don't want to spend lengthy going
33 over land jurisdiction but I think you're going wise with
34 your proposals to go to the State Board. If you can get it
35 passed there as far as the wolverine issue, then it would
36 affect the outside interests. This -- outside activities.
37 This Council deals just with Federal lands and Federal
38 subsistence uses. But I think the Council appreciates you
39 coming here and explaining your proposal so it's clear on
40 that. And then if you want to, you can submit them on the
41 Federal side, too, but it would only restrict Federally
42 qualified subsistence users on Federal lands.

43

44 MR. H. MORGAN: Is Pike Lake, Unit 18, isn't
45 that part of Federal Land, Pike Lake, over here? Because
46 another issue is these trophy pike fishermen. They're really
47 catching a lot of them, big trophy pike, which we use for
48 subsistence fish during the winter. And that's having
49 another bad effect. These big pike, they usually keep the
50 little pike in check, you know, but a lot of them are gone,

00075

1 the big pike, you know, so there's increase in these little
2 pike and it's eating who knows what. But you guys got to
3 protect our pike through the wintertime. There's too many of
4 these guides and no limit on them.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Herman and I would have to look
7 or some other Staff would have to look on the land make up
8 there but the main thing would be is we're calling for
9 proposals, similar to the Board of Fisheries, our call for
10 proposals is after January 4th. And then those will go in
11 effect in, what is it 2001, so those proposals you need to
12 look at addressing to the Federal Board realizing it will
13 only be waters within the conservation unit. I know this
14 gets confusing but that's why we need to probably talk to you
15 one on one on your situation because when we try to do it
16 this way it does get confusing. And then you also have the
17 avenue through the Board of Fisheries to address those
18 issues, too.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have anything more
21 Herman?

22
23 MR. H. MORGAN: No.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any questions from
26 the Board? Benedict.

27
28 MR. JONES: My name is Benedict. Are you
29 talking about two stock of fish, salmon and local fish?

30
31 MR. H. MORGAN: Yeah, like any kind of --
32 like the pike and the dolly varden, grayling, rainbows,
33 Arctic char or lake trout. A lot of these hunters they've
34 bring rod and reel, too, so boy we was to go fishing winter
35 time, them old -- went down to Emmonak up there, now we never
36 catch nothing, they're all being caught by these sport
37 hunters, sport fishermen. And we're going to put in a
38 proposal to stop.

39
40 MR. JONES: That would be local fish.

41
42 MR. H. MORGAN: It's called catch and
43 release, they call it.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: For our information, could you
46 get us a copy of your proposal?

47
48 MR. H. MORGAN: Yes. There's also a letter
49 from the Governor telling us to really conserve our salmon
50 out here, he's telling the Board of Fish to really watch it

00076

1 out there because it's getting -- looking pretty bad.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any questions from
4 the Council? Do you have anything more, Vince?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: No.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Just give me the copies
9 and I'll make sure the Council members get them even though
10 they're most likely State proposals. It will be good for
11 them to understand what you put forward, and they'll see them
12 again in the mail since you guys serve on advisory committees
13 from Fish and Game.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you Herman and Mark.

16

17 MR. H. MORGAN: Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: I appreciate your time here.
20 Do we have any more local or advisory committees here, other
21 than our Council members?

22

23 I'd like to go back to the Subsistence Resource
24 Commission and bring back Hollis Twitchell.

25

26 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell, I'm with
27 Denali National Park. I'm handing out a letter from Denali's
28 SRC to Mitch Demientieff, the Federal Subsistence Board, with
29 also a copy to Western Regional Advisory Council. It was a
30 letter that the SRC wrote on behalf of Ray Collins' term of
31 appointment to Western Interior Advisory Council. The
32 Commission wanted to go on record showing their appreciation
33 for the many years of service that Ray has provided to the
34 Commission and also to the Regional Advisory Council, and
35 this letter was submitted in behalf of the nomination period.
36 I guess it didn't get in in time to get into your notebook.
37 I just thought you'd like to know the SRC's position and
38 their appreciation to what Ray has contributed.

39

40 The SRC had a meeting on August 7th this summer and
41 they took up our subsistence management plan and we'll get to
42 that in a little bit. The only other thing that the SRC
43 passed was a motion to write a letter to the Superintendent
44 to Denali regarding an issue of a lodge being developed in
45 the Kantishna area, it's known as Sprucefore, which is an old
46 mining claim that had been patented and recently was acquired
47 by a developer and is in the process of developing a
48 recreational lodge about 10 miles outside of the existing
49 community of Kantishna. And he's petitioned the NPS to
50 upgrade the old mining road to improve access to this private

00077

1 property. The SRC reviewed the request and the environmental
2 assessment that's being done for that access provision, and
3 they took a position that they viewed this development with
4 the new recreational use being extended into this area has
5 the potential to impact subsistence users in the area. They
6 recommended that the Superintendent on a willing buyer,
7 willing seller, seller basis, acquire this property rather
8 than promote increased access and recreational development of
9 this area. I only have one copy of their letter so I'll
10 submit it to Vince.

11
12 That was the only correspondence letter from the SRC
13 from their recent meetings.

14
15 Would you like me to go into the aspect of the
16 subsistence management plans for Denali and Lake Clark at
17 this time?

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: What is the wishes of the
20 Board, do you want to go ahead and get it over with, Ray?

21
22 MR. COLLINS: Do you have those to hand out
23 here?

24
25 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes.

26
27 MR. COLLINS: Maybe for them to be able to
28 take a moment to go through them if there's questions because
29 most of that Park area is not inside the area we're concerned
30 about here for some of them although it touches on it, up
31 around Telida there. And I'm familiar with how it affects
32 the Telida area.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can you wait on that then?

35
36 MR. TWITCHELL: I could wait. Is there a
37 chance that I could discuss it this afternoon, later today?

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Now, go ahead you've got the
40 floor.

41
42 MR. TWITCHELL: Now, okay, thank you. Paul,
43 would you hand out the plans. As I mentioned in several
44 meetings before, the Commission has been working with the
45 Park to develop a subsistence management plan for the Park
46 area. What Paul is handing out is a copy of Denali's plan
47 and also a copy of Lake Clark's plan.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you going to go through
50 this all?

1 MR. TWITCHELL: No, I'm not intending to go
2 through this at all. I just wanted to let you know that
3 they've moved the plan far enough along where they put it out
4 for public comment. So both Denali and Lake Clark's plans
5 are available for comment. Although it has a comment date of
6 December 10th for comments, it's important to know that this
7 plan is a living document and it's being worked on and
8 developed each year as the SRCs formulate recommendations and
9 hunting plan proposals, the plan will be updated and changed.
10 So it's essentially open to comments at any time but for the
11 purpose of this first release we've asked that if you have
12 any comments on it by December 10th of this year, we'd
13 appreciate those comments.

14
15 As you know, Park Service, in many situations has a
16 little bit different program, particularly in terms of
17 eligibility and access, so this plan is designed to encompass
18 not only hunting and trapping and fishing but also the other
19 aspects of subsistence in Park areas such as use of cabins,
20 timbers, customary trade, a variety of subsistence issues
21 throughout the Park area.

22
23 The particular sections in it, has a section on the
24 SRC and its function, our resident zone eligibility, National
25 Preserves, our individual permits, subsistence access,
26 resolution of user conflicts, wildlife harvest, trapping,
27 timber harvest, cabins and shelters, acquisition of resource
28 and user data, C&T determinations, fisheries, and then
29 there's a number of appendix in the back of the plan of
30 pertinent information.

31
32 That's all I'm going to say on these plans. You can
33 comment on them individually or if you choose to take it up
34 and address it at your next Council meeting and have a formal
35 position. We'll entertain comments on it at any time.

36
37 One other thing that I mentioned is that the SRC
38 asked us, Denali, in particular, to develop a user guide for
39 subsistence users. And this user guide is designed primarily
40 for users to help them understand what programs are there in
41 terms of Park areas, how the Parks program interrelate with
42 the Federal programs, subsistence, and also in our Preserves
43 with the State program of hunting and trapping. So that
44 particular user guide, I don't know, was it handed out? Do
45 you have a copy of that in front of you? Paul, the user
46 guide? Okay. So this user guide is just now being published
47 and being mailed out to all of our resident zones and to our
48 individual users which gives a synopsis -- it was obvious
49 that this was way to thick for most people's consumption, and
50 so this was a request by the SRC to distill it down into a

00079

1 more simpler approach to let them know where to go or to get
2 additional information. So it's intended, primarily, for our
3 local users.

4
5 At the last meeting, the SRC was concerned that the
6 Park Service is not doing a very good job of getting
7 information out to visiting public. People who come into the
8 Park, traveled in on the buses, stay at the lodges and that
9 sort of thing in terms of cultural use and subsistence use.
10 So they've asked us to work up a brochure, which is even
11 smaller yet than the user guide which will focus on cultural
12 and subsistence aspects just to inform people who are new to
13 Alaska and new to Denali of what's going on. So we'll be
14 developing that over the course of this year and should have
15 that out shortly.

16
17 The last thing I would mention is, although there was
18 no action taken by the SRC, there has been some concerns
19 raised about increasing recreational use of snowmachining,
20 particularly on the eastern flanks of Denali. And the Park
21 Service, last year, initiated a temporary snow machine
22 closure in the Old Mt. McKinley Park area, which is not open
23 to subsistence. The SRC has raised the issue about snow
24 machining on adjacent Park lands that are, ANILCA, new ANILCA
25 Park lands, primarily in terms of displacement of fur bearers
26 from trapline areas in the early -- the middle part of the
27 trapping season and also questions about wintering habitat
28 for moose along the Broad Pass area. And also questions
29 about ptarmigan nesting in spring time, and what sort of
30 impacts there might be from all the increased recreational
31 snowmachining going on in recent years. There's been no
32 action taken in terms of the SRC but they raised those
33 questions that they feel that we should be aware that there
34 is potentially impacts to local resources and causing the
35 redistribution of subsistence resources. So that's an
36 ongoing issue that I'm sure will come before us.

37
38 If you have any questions.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions, Council
41 members.

42
43 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Ida.

48
49 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, this letter is
50 in your packet that Hollis referred to and it is the

00080

1 responsibility of this Council to recommend someone to the
2 SRC. And this letter is recommending that you recommend the
3 reappointment of Ray Collins and perhaps you'd like to do
4 that with a motion.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, you can
9 either do that now or do it when you do elections, it
10 wouldn't matter. We're getting close to the teleconference
11 at 3:00 so it might save time to do it now, to use this time
12 unless Hollis.....

13
14 MR. COLLINS: This was for my reappointment
15 to this Council.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: To this Council.

18
19 MS. HILDEBRAND: Oh.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: To the Commission.

22
23 MR. COLLINS: Because my time on this Council
24 was up.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: And he has been reappointed.

27
28 MS. HILDEBRAND: Okay.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: And what's your status on the
31 Subsistence Resource Commission?

32
33 MR. COLLINS: I'm on that but not as a
34 subsistence user. It has to be somebody from Nickoli or
35 Telida that actually had a use in the Park there, so I'm not
36 eligible for appointment to that. We've had Steve Eluska
37 from Telida that's been appointed or nominated by us, I
38 think, before or supported.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. They are in the process
41 of doing it or have they done that already.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Hollis.

44
45 MR. TWITCHELL: The SRCs have three members
46 appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, three members
47 appointed by the Governor of Alaska, and then three members
48 appointed by the Regional Advisory Councils. Ray's
49 appointment is by the Secretary of Interior and so he's an
50 active standing member of the SRC. In terms of the Western

00081

1 Interior Region, Steve Elueska from Telida is appointed to
2 the SRC, and that appointment is by the state of Alaska.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any further
5 questions for Hollis? Our students are here, I would like to
6 welcome them here. Well, we have a half an hour before the
7 teleconference, do we have time to cover anything else?

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman the next
10 topic won't be likely be covered in a half hour which is
11 wanton waste.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, it won't.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: I would tend to think -- we'd
16 have to look at a topic here, maybe there's an agency report.
17 Again, it's putting them on the spot if they were targeting
18 Thursday, that they may want to come forward and give their
19 agency report now, if it's within 15 minutes or so instead of
20 waiting until tomorrow. And again, it's putting them on the
21 spot but because of the scheduling conflicts we've had we've
22 had to bounce all over, as you know.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: We had one hand up back there.
25 Fifteen minutes only. Okay.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to
28 commend the Denali SRC on their good work on their
29 subsistence plan. I feel that this user guide is a very good
30 idea and would like to see one also done for the Gates of the
31 Arctic, and that brochure also sounds good. So I commend
32 them with their good ideas that they've had for the Denali
33 SRC.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I would like
36 to also thank Ray, Jack and Pollock, our appointees, do we
37 have anyone else that we appoint to SRCs?

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I've bungled through that
40 this afternoon, I'm not going to attempt any further on that.
41 I think the Park Service can explain which ones you're
42 appointing. Because you don't appoint to Denali and I said
43 you did, and you do to Gates, but let them clarify so I don't
44 cause another mountain of paperwork.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Yeah, before we go on,
47 I'd like Carl to introduce our students and our leader.

48
49 MR. MORGAN: All of them individually?

50

00082

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, just have them stand up.

2

3 MS. RICHARDSON: Hi, I'm Holly Richardson and
4 I teach English at the high school. I brought some high
5 schoolers and middle schoolers over today just so they could
6 get a feel for what are doing. Unfortunately I could only
7 come for one period so we're only here until right around
8 3:20. But I'll let the kids introduce themselves. If you'll
9 just stand up and say your name.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: First and last name.

12

13 MS. MORGAN: Mary Alice Morgan.

14

15 MR. SANBEI: Brandon Sanbei.

16

17 MS. HOFFMAN: Charlene Hoffman.

18

19 MR. MOFFITT: Dougie Moffitt.

20

21 MS. SANBEI: Amanda Sanbei.

22

23 MR. HOFFMAN: Bradly Hoffman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for your attendance
26 and I'd just like to comment both to the Council and Staff
27 that we are looking at our possible future leaders and
28 leadership and I'd just like to thank them for coming and
29 introducing themselves.

30

31 As I stated before we have about 15 minutes before we
32 go into our teleconference. I'd like to say to the teacher
33 and her students that we will be going to a teleconference
34 meeting in about 15 minutes. You've got the floor, your
35 name.

36

37 MR. HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, my name is Paul
38 Hunter. I'm with the National Park Service. I work out of
39 the Anchorage office but I'm here today to report to you for
40 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Lake Clark National
41 Park. I just have a couple of items to cover. The first
42 item -- well, I was going to mention the SRC appointment but
43 let's do that last because you may want to talk about that a
44 little bit.

45

46 For Lake Clark, Lee Fink, the subsistence coordinator
47 over there asked me to bring over the Lake Clark subsistence
48 management plan which has already been handed out to you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there any action needed on

00083

1 this?

2

3 MR. HUNTER: There's no action needed on
4 that. It's for you if you -- after you've had a chance to
5 look at it, if you would like to comment on it, I believe the
6 comment period runs into November. The SRC has already
7 reviewed it and is seeking, you know, comments before we move
8 any further with it. And that's all I have, really, to
9 report from Lake Clark.

10

11 For Gates of the Arctic National Park, now, you
12 notice you don't have a subsistence management plan before
13 you from them. They're working on one, it will be very
14 similar to the two that you just received but because the SRC
15 didn't have an opportunity to go over it at their last
16 meeting because they didn't have a quorum at the last
17 meeting, we're holding off bringing that forward until the
18 SRC has had a chance to go over it. So Jack may want to
19 comment on that a little bit he has any thoughts on that.
20 But until the SRC has had a chance to look at it, that's not
21 going to be put out for public comment.

22

23 Did you have any remarks on that Jack?

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: It's basically going to be the
26 same format and there was wording that we changed, and those
27 have been redrafted. But until we have a full quorum and
28 have a meeting and approve the draft copy we won't have that
29 published for public comment.

30

31 MR. HUNTER: The other news from Gates of the
32 Arctic is that Steve Ulvi is taking on additional duties.
33 He's going to be working as a management assistant to the
34 Superintendent and so he's going to start slowly moving away
35 from his subsistence duties. And so over the next several
36 months we'll be looking for somebody else to take over his
37 subsistence duties and as soon as we have more on that, of
38 course, we'll let you know on that.

39

40 The other item that you need to go over -- or that
41 we'd like to let you know about is that Pollack Simon, Sr.,
42 the Chairman of the Subsistence Resource Commission for Gates
43 of the Arctic National Park, his appointment is up on
44 November 4th, next month, and he is the one subsistence
45 resource commission member that this Council appoints. And
46 he's been a long time member, he's the Chair, and we really
47 value his work on the subsistence resource commission and
48 highly recommend his appointment. But as I said, you can
49 take that up at this meeting if you like. If you don't take
50 it up at this meeting the charters for the subsistence

00084

1 resource commissions say that members continue until, beyond
2 their terms, until a new member is appointed. So he will be
3 able to continue even if you don't take it up at this
4 meeting. But as I said, he comes highly recommended for
5 reappointment.

6
7 And that's all that we have from Lake Clark and Gates
8 of the Arctic.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you actively solicit
11 applications for these positions?

12
13 MR. HUNTER: I don't want to say actively
14 solicit. It's not the same process that you see each year
15 for regional advisory council nominations. It's not as
16 widely publicized, I guess, because of the local nature of
17 the coverage for the subsistence resource commissions, so
18 it's more internal through the existing members letting the
19 people in their areas know that a new appointment is
20 available and so it's less formal, I guess, would be the
21 point.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we're following the State
24 and using the word, proximity?

25
26 MR. HUNTER: Correct.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any other
29 applicants or has anyone else showed any interest, just for
30 the Board's information?

31
32 MR. HUNTER: Not that I'm aware of. Now,
33 perhaps Jack is aware if there's been any other interest
34 shown.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, I depend on you and
37 Pollock quite a bit. What's your feeling on this, do you
38 want to go ahead and reappoint him at this time?

39
40 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, Pollock has very
41 excellent attendance to the SRC meetings and has very
42 valuable input into the SRC representation of Allakaket and
43 Alatna. I, at this time, make a motion to reappoint Pollock
44 from the Regional Council to the subsistence resource
45 commission for Gates of the Arctic.

46
47 MR. STICKMAN: I second the motion.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been seconded by Micky.
50 Further discussion. Vince, you had your hand up?

00085

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Paul, isn't
2 it correct that the appointment by the Regional Council, it
3 has to be a member of the Regional Council or the local
4 advisory committee for these three seats, and to move things
5 along I see Hollis is going in the affirmative in the back.
6 So you were being very polite about saying wide publication,
7 they have to be a member of this Council or committee so it
8 is a very small pool of people that qualify for your
9 appointment. So with that, I just wanted to let you know
10 that it's not open to anybody in the proximity of the Park,
11 they have to be on this group or the local advisory
12 committee.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: You mean such as the Koyukuk
15 River Advisory Committee?

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. But there could be
18 other committees in other parts of the Park area, but they
19 have to be either a member of the Regional Advisory Council
20 or the local advisory committee.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. He is current chairman
23 at this time of the Koyukuk River Advisory Council Committee
24 and he has served since 1972 voluntarily. Any further
25 discussion on reappointing Pollock Simon?

26
27 MR. STICKMAN: Call for the question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: The question has been called
30 for. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

35
36 (No opposing votes)

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Is that the
39 extent of your report Paul?

40
41 MR. HUNTER: That completes my report.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I'd like to thank --
44 were you done Hollis?

45
46 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. And at this
49 time we'll go ahead and take a break and move on over to KNA
50 for the teleconference. Yes, go ahead, Vince.

00086

1 MR. MATHEWS: The area over there is pretty
2 small so people are welcome to come but the Council members
3 will need to sit at the table and then Laura and I didn't
4 catch the officer's name, need to have someplace close to the
5 microphone and et cetera, but people are welcome to come and
6 listen in, but it is an office setting and you may end up out
7 in the hallway which is okay. But it's just across the
8 parking lot at the KNA office, Kuskokwim Native Association
9 office.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: What time frame are we looking
12 at?

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I would say -- well, I
15 don't know what Laura's got to present. She's shaking her
16 head which may indicate.....

17
18 MS. REID: It depends on how many questions
19 we have.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: So 20 minutes?

22
23 MS. REID: (Nods affirmatively)

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: She's saying about 20 minutes,
26 depending on questions. It's more of an informational item.

27
28 MS. REID: And you're going to discuss wanton
29 waste at this time?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, no, no.

32
33 MS. REID: We're going to come back here for
34 wanton waste?

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: We're going to come back here
37 and do wanton waste here. We're going to discuss wanton
38 waste when we get back here.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's that?

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: We don't discuss wanton waste
43 at the teleconference.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. We'll take a break and
46 try to fit in that office. I'll recess this meeting for a
47 short time.

48
49 (Off record)

50

00087

1 (On record)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: We're in the Kuskokwim Native
4 Association conference room teleconferencing with Philip
5 Demientieff of the Tanana Chief's Holy Cross subregional
6 office. And we have here in the room, the Western Interior
7 Regional Advisory Council and others. I suppose the Council
8 members -- well, I don't think we need to introduce everybody
9 on that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: But we do have Refuge Staff
14 from the Kuskokwim/Nowitna Refuge here, we have the Innoko
15 Refuge Staff here and they'll introduce themselves, the
16 Innoko Staff for the Kuskokwim/Nowitna, Joanna Roberts and
17 Orville Huntington. We do have State Fish and Game people
18 here. We have Vince Golembeski with Comm Fish, commercial
19 fisheries. David James is here somewhere, there he is, with
20 Wildlife Conservation. The reason I point that out to you,
21 Philip, is that this issue is an area where there's patch
22 work of land jurisdiction so I wanted you to realize that
23 there are State representatives here that the Chair or others
24 may want to call upon when the presentations come on.

25

26 So with that, I'll turn it over to the Chair, which
27 is Ron Sam, and then he'll introduce the presenters. And Mr.
28 Chairman, the satellite right there works the same as this
29 one.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: All I can say, Philip, is that
32 I wish you were down here instead of teleconferences and I
33 appreciate your time, though. So I'll just turn it back to
34 you, I think that you know everyone on this Council.

35

36 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Sorry I couldn't be there,
37 Ron, but thanks anyway.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Do you want Laura to.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead.

42

43 MS. REID: I'm Laura Reid, assistant manager
44 of the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Philip, can you hear well?

47

48 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, uh-huh. I can barely
49 hear her but yeah.

50

00088

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, you're being moved down
2 the table, I hope it's okay with you, I'm not getting
3 personal or anything.

4
5 MS. REID: How's that Philip, better?

6
7 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: I could hear you, yeah.

8
9 MS. REID: Okay. I'm assistant manager at
10 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. My name's Laura Reid. And
11 I just wanted to address the Council and summarize our law
12 enforcement efforts we conducted this year during the moose
13 season on and around the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.
14 And Sergeant Andy Blank from the Alaska Fish and Wildlife
15 Protection has joined me today to kind of summarize this
16 cooperative law enforcement effort. But I'm also -- this is
17 also going to be my presentation to the Board which would
18 normally be held tomorrow because of this teleconference. So
19 before I get to the law enforcement -- summarizing the law
20 enforcement effort I just wanted to mention a couple things.

21
22 One is our Refuge manager, Ed Merritt, has
23 transferred to Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge in Tok. He's
24 there now, and they have advertised for his job. It's closed
25 September 23rd and I imagine maybe after Thanksgiving we'll
26 have an idea who the new manager will be, and they'll
27 probably be on board after Christmas and be at the next
28 Council meeting, I would think, if it works. But that's not
29 me, I didn't apply for the job. So we'll see how that goes.
30 But that should be -- at the next Council meeting we should
31 have a new Refuge manager on board, so after 10 years with
32 the Refuge Ed Merritt has moved on, I just wanted to make
33 that announcement.

34
35 And we're also planning a moose survey this March on
36 the refuge, on the south half of the refuge below the
37 Iditarod, the mouth of the Iditarod River, and that's our
38 plan. So I don't have any moose numbers to report. The last
39 survey we did was on the north half of the refuge in '98 so
40 -- and that was reported at the last Council meeting, so
41 nothing new. But we should have some numbers maybe, not for
42 the next Council meeting which is normally in February?

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, February or March.

45
46 MS. REID: Yeah, so I won't have it for the
47 next Council meeting but anyhow that's our plan. And just to
48 kind of give you an idea of what we did for this law
49 enforcement effort, based on concerns that we've heard at
50 these Council meetings we cooperated with the State a law

00089

1 enforcement effort on the refuge and outside the refuge
2 boundary as well, and headquartered the operation out of our
3 field headquarters in the refuge boundary. And we brought up
4 two Fish and Wildlife Service officers, a special agent from
5 Wyoming and an officer from another refuge in Arizona in
6 addition to the State officers. And I'm not a refuge officer
7 so I can't really tell you exactly what we did so Andy has
8 agreed to do that for me and summarize what the contact --
9 number of contacts were made and the number of cases that
10 were made on the refuge.

11
12 Go ahead, Andy.

13
14 OFFICER BLANK: This is Sergeant Andy Blank, Fish and
15 Wildlife Protection in McGrath. I've been in McGrath for two
16 hunting seasons now. I was in Aniak back in the '80s so I'm
17 familiar with the Innoko River, I've worked it for four years
18 back in the '80s and again last year I was back up on the
19 Innoko and I was rather impressed, you might say, with the
20 numbers of people that are flying in and out of the Innoko
21 Refuge, primarily looking for trophy moose. There's a lot of
22 boat traffic down on the lower Innoko and had a number of
23 violations working as good as I could a year ago, got with Ed
24 over the winter and Laura and we decided that a joint law
25 enforcement effort was long overdue on the refuge.

26
27 I brought up a Trooper from Kodiak with a Supercub on
28 floats, I have another Trooper in McGrath who was flying an
29 R-22 helicopter and I brought up an investigator from our
30 commercial crimes bureau in Anchorage who worked out of the
31 McGrath area to intercept hunters coming back in from the
32 Innoko Refuge. In a nutshell, the two Troopers in a 10 day
33 period of time between September 15th and September 25th
34 contacted 257 hunters, they issued 13 citations, 12 warnings
35 and we flew between 120 and 130 aircraft hours. And those
36 contact numbers I gave you don't include the hunters that I
37 contacted, that's for the two Troopers that were out there
38 full-time. And the aircraft hours would have included the
39 185 that I was flying on floats as well as the R-22
40 helicopter and the Supercub on floats. I had to work the
41 Alaska Range and Unit 19, so I didn't get out to the Innoko
42 as often as I would have liked but I imagine I contacted 20
43 hunters myself, and I'm working on a few investigations.

44
45 But we had a variety of violations that we
46 encountered this year. We issued two citations for hunters
47 transporting the antlers out of the field before all of the
48 edible meat was taken. We had seven citations issued for
49 failure to validate their moose harvest tickets. We had
50 seven sublegal bull moose taken by non-residents that were

00090

1 recovered and donated to charities. We had one wanton waste
2 and two citations for failure to leave evidence of sex
3 attached. And we have a total of six bull moose that were
4 reported to us or discovered as being wounded that walked off
5 and were subsequently found later at a point when the meat
6 was no longer salvageable for human consumption. So in a
7 nutshell we had six wounded animals, apparently wounded
8 animals that got away and died and were not recovered.

9
10 MS. REID: So I think we had a total of nine
11 officers involved in this operation. And we received
12 additional funding from subsistence to do this. This was
13 unusual, we don't normally have this level of law enforcement
14 activity. But I just finished a budget submission for next
15 year and I did put in a request to continue this law
16 enforcement effort and, you know, I feel the State would also
17 like to continue to cooperate on this area. So we'll just
18 see how funding goes next year. But I think with the results
19 that we had this year we could certainly make a good case to
20 get more funding and continue this effort.

21
22 OFFICER BLANK: I think it's needed. You know, this
23 part of Alaska is well known to hunters throughout the Lower
24 48 for the trophy quality for hunting moose. And certainly
25 the hunters that come up here are interested in antlers more
26 than they are in the meat and it's quite an education process
27 briefing these hunters as to what they need to do to follow
28 the letter of the law. I will say that Willow Air Service
29 who traditionally operates out of McGrath every year taking
30 hunters to the refuge did an outstanding job to make sure
31 that the hunters that they transported brought out meat --
32 all the meat from the field and that it was in good condition
33 and whenever they even thought they had a problem they didn't
34 hesitate to get in touch with myself or the investigator
35 working out of McGrath so that we met their aircraft when
36 they came back with hunters that might have been in
37 violation. They helped us a lot, and so I want to commend
38 Mr. Steve White of Willow Air for working closely with us to
39 make sure that they didn't have any violations from their
40 people, and if they did he turned them in. So my hat's off
41 to him.

42
43 For next year I would like to see the State work with
44 the people of the GASH communities to put a check station in
45 somewhere around Holy Cross, around the Railroad City area.
46 There's the Randy Cage and Memorial Cabin, that would work,
47 but the people in the GASH communities tell us that they'd
48 like to see a check station somewhere up around Railroad
49 City. And so I would like to start working with these
50 communities for next year so that we can implement a program

00091

1 where we have a Trooper with a Supercub on floats and a
2 couple of Troopers in a boat in this area. We get complaints
3 of hunting at night, spot-lighting, shooting cows and wasted
4 meat coming out of this area. So we would like to establish
5 a check station there for next year as well as continue
6 flying the upper reaches of the refuge, the lower Innoko and
7 try to cover the entire region as best as we possibly can but
8 maintain more of a permanent presence in the lower part for
9 next year.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Carl.

12
13 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On
14 these check stations, do you make it a mandatory stop or is
15 it voluntary?

16
17 OFFICER BLANK: It's pretty much voluntary. To make
18 it mandatory you'd have to make that a regulation and it's
19 very difficult to -- it's not like when the Troopers in the
20 Anchorage road system set up a mandatory stopping area for
21 DWIs on New Year's Eve, they can stop every car that comes
22 through, we have a difficult time stopping every boat that
23 might come through so it's more or less a voluntary thing.
24 I think it's been done at the Randy Cage and Memorial Cabin
25 in the past and it's been done rather successfully. But if
26 we had Troopers with boats and a Trooper with an airplane, if
27 anybody bypasses the check station then certainly we can take
28 some action to try to stop them and check them.

29
30 MR. DEACON: So you will go after the boat?

31
32 OFFICER BLANK: Oh, yes.

33
34 MR. DEACON: Okay.

35
36 OFFICER BLANK: That's why we'd be there, you bet.
37 I think the people that have been there in the past.....

38
39 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Excuse me Mr. Chairman.....

40
41 OFFICER BLANK:were not law enforcement.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Philip.

44
45 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Trooper Andy Blank, you
46 know, the check station by Holy Cross, do you have contact
47 with them or are you just a different department from them?

48
49 OFFICER BLANK: That's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
50 as well. I think Mike Riordan out of Bethel has pretty much

00092

1 handled that, at least, during the fall of '98 he had people
2 that were in there. I did not stop down there this year
3 myself so I don't know if there was any effort down there
4 during September. Trooper Pogole who's stationed here in
5 Aniak is not available today, so he'd be able to better
6 answer that question. But I'm just not sure if there was any
7 presence there this fall at all or not.

8
9 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, we had a couple of --
10 I guess a couple of them were down at the check station and
11 to me, I think they just -- I overheard someone say that they
12 just collect like harvest information and not enforce any
13 violations.

14
15 OFFICER BLANK: That's right. Traditionally down in
16 that area, the people that are brought up are there to
17 collect data and they're not law enforcement personnel and
18 they don't really have boats to get around. It's pretty much
19 a voluntary situation where people stop in and give them the
20 data, and they inspect their meat and just take the harvest
21 data from there. But they're not out in a boat looking to
22 check hunters and they're not trying to flag people down that
23 just drive by.

24
25 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: And another thing, I hope
26 that the refuge get more -- I hope they get their funding
27 next year so you can do the -- beef up the enforcement again.
28 And the villages over on the GASH area, they really
29 appreciated both the Feds and the State working together to,
30 you know, get violators and hopefully next year, like --
31 hopefully it will be like that again.

32
33 And another difference was made that the village
34 corporation, you know, they did their own trespassing on
35 corporation lands. That helped, too. But I'm not sure what
36 they plan on doing next year, but that's what we're going to
37 start working. So in future meetings we'll have you --
38 probably have you in one of our village meetings, Trooper
39 Blank.

40
41 OFFICER BLANK: Okay, we'll be available.

42
43 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have David James here, did
46 you have something David?

47
48 MR. JAMES: I had a question for Andy.
49 What's your impression of 257 contacts, you said you had 13
50 citations and 12 warnings, is that normal, below normal,

00093

1 above normal for the count of violations?

2

3 OFFICER BLANK: Well, having not really intentionally
4 worked this area before, you know, I don't have a baseline to
5 work from. Although, I think that had we had this operation
6 during September in '98, I think that the violation numbers
7 would have been higher. So I think this is average to low
8 from what I normally see.

9

10 MR. JAMES: And why the difference from '98,
11 just the word is out?

12

13 OFFICER BLANK: Well, I think the word got out
14 somewhat because there were a fair number of hunters that
15 went to court for violations off the Innoko from a year ago
16 and the air taxi operators were aware of their clients
17 getting cited and they certainly are worried about their
18 aircraft and their future business operations. So they, in
19 turn, started putting the word out to their clients that you
20 better back out all the meat and the antlers don't come out
21 of the field or leave the kill cite before all the meat does
22 and we're not flying your antlers before we fly all the meat.
23 And they had transfer of possession forms filled out from
24 every client that they had. And so that's why I had the
25 investigator in McGrath, so he would meet the airplanes as
26 they came in, and he detected no violations other than what
27 the air taxi operator was already telling us about. They
28 were coming to us. They came to us before we actually got to
29 them. And I think that's because of the contacts that we had
30 a year before.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Ray might have a question.

35

36 MR. COLLINS: Well, I have a question, were
37 they advising their clients on how to handle meat?

38

39 OFFICER BLANK: Yes.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: You said it was being handled
42 better. So what were they doing, using more cloth bags
43 instead of plastic?

44

45 OFFICER BLANK: I think they were using more cloth
46 bags and it seems to me they were doing a better job of
47 getting the meat up off the ground. They're getting more
48 instructions to erect a meat pole, cover it with a tarp, seal
49 it on the ends, make sure the tarp comes down below the meat,
50 you know, build a tent over the meat.

00094

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

2

3 OFFICER BLANK: And, you know, as you all know, meat
4 can hang on a meat pole for a long time if it's properly
5 taken care of and covered, whereas a year ago, September of
6 '98, we had a lot of rain, we had almost two weeks of solid
7 rain and hunters were leaving meat out on the ground and it
8 was coming back totally green and meat was ending up in the
9 McGrath dump. But that only happened one time this year and
10 that was from an animal that was wounded and in bad shape and
11 wasn't salvageable.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: So the information they were
14 giving, did they have any handout or anything like that or
15 was it just word of mouth?

16

17 OFFICER BLANK: It was pretty much word of mouth.
18 There were not any brochures that I'm aware of. The State
19 does put out a brochure for salvaging meat, particularly in
20 Units 19(A) and (B) and 21(A).

21

22 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

23

24 OFFICER BLANK: Because that has a bone in the meat
25 requirement. But other than that, there's really no
26 orientation cards that are handed out except for hunters in
27 Unit 17 and 19(A) and (B).

28

29 MR. COLLINS: I guess the follow up question
30 would be, I was wondering if that would help the situation
31 some if there was information given out and also if they were
32 advised that if they did not personally want to take the meat
33 there were villages where they could donate it if it was in
34 good condition that would accept it, so that there -- who to
35 contact in those villages?

36

37 OFFICER BLANK: Right. And I did have a few non-
38 residents call me before the season started as part of the
39 prehunt planning.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

42

43 OFFICER BLANK: They asked for names of people to
44 contact locally to give their meat away.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

47

48 OFFICER BLANK: And they asked questions like that.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

00095

1 OFFICER BLANK: I can tell you in at least one case I
2 was involved in this fall where a group of Texans wasted some
3 meat over in Unit 19(C). They were fully briefed by their
4 air taxi operator and they had the hunter orientation cards
5 that are printed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
6 they watched all the videos and yet, the better part of eight
7 animals were wasted. So it's an individual thing.

8
9 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

10
11 OFFICER BLANK: What your priorities are and what
12 your ethics are, too.

13
14 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

15
16 OFFICER BLANK: But I think this year, overall, we
17 saw better compliance than what I did the year before or
18 previous years.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Following up on Ray's, I have
23 copies of what Gates of the Arctic, and again, they're under
24 different jurisdiction, et cetera. And I don't know if Jack
25 has seen that on the Kobuk River, that they pass out on the
26 Kobuk River, that the Council may want to look at when they
27 go back over where we're normally meeting, that is provided
28 either -- Jack can correct me on this, either when they're
29 out in the field or before they go out in the field, with
30 this single brochure on recognizing, respect of the meat, how
31 to handle it somewhat and then how to live and respect the
32 local traditions. So there is an example there.

33
34 The question I have, for both Laura and Andy is, how
35 did this happen to make this a priority area for enforcement
36 efforts? Because I cover two regions and I don't see anybody
37 here from Eastern Interior but we have the same request
38 elsewhere, we need more enforcement. So how did this rise up
39 to a level to have this effort so others could learn of that
40 process so they could do it? Get into the priority setting
41 for doing such a large effort?

42
43 MS. REID: It definitely made a difference
44 that the Council brought it up at just about every meeting we
45 went to, and that this is an issue that they wanted to
46 address. And so that made a huge difference and it was
47 brought up at the GASH meetings, and you know, they wanted to
48 see more enforcement in this, primarily down around Holy
49 Cross, which is off the refuge and we did get off the refuge
50 on this effort because we cooperated with the State. So we

00096

1 saw it as definitely a real issue that needed to be addressed
2 and went to the powers that be and got the funding through
3 Subsistence Division and then cooperated with the State, and
4 they saw it as an issue as well, based on Andy's contacts in
5 McGrath and that's how we got the support for it.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Another question, if it's okay,
8 Mr. Chairman, for me to continue?

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, get it over with.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Is, you, I don't think meant to
13 portray it that way but you portrayed the violations were
14 non-resident? I know that the enforcement would have been
15 uniform across all hunters, correct?

16
17 OFFICER BLANK: Correct.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: And that you did give others --
20 because as Philip's already reported, the villages support
21 it, but I feel as a coordinator I need to advise them that
22 when they request law enforcement it just doesn't look at
23 one.....

24
25 MS. REID: That's right.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS:hunter group.

28
29 OFFICER BLANK: That's right. That's right.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: So can you break down how the
32 violations went, not by names but by.....

33
34 OFFICER BLANK: Certainly. For the most part it was
35 non-resident.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

38
39 OFFICER BLANK: In the upper part of the refuge area
40 and we had non-resident violators down around the lower part
41 of the Innoko as well. We did not have very many citations
42 issued to resident hunters this season at all, period. Very
43 few. And I can honestly tell you that in September of '98 it
44 was the same way for me as well. Every resident hunter I
45 contacted during the fall of '98 had every stitch of meat,
46 they had their harvest tickets punched and everything
47 appeared to be as legitimate as legitimate could be. Now,
48 the prevailing complaints that we get down around the
49 Railroad City area, that lower Innoko area is, using
50 spotlights at night and the occasional taking of a cow moose.

00097

1 But we actually haven't made any cases on that but we do get
2 complaints.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: And when you say resident,
5 you're saying Alaska residents?

6

7 OFFICER BLANK: Yes.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: When we talk about -- we tend
10 to talk about residents of the unit so it's Alaska residents?

11

12 OFFICER BLANK: Right, Alaska residents.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I just have to say it, it
15 worked. The Council has brought this up three or four years,
16 I didn't know about -- I didn't bribe her or anything, I
17 didn't know how this went into effect so I think it reflects
18 on the Council's constant -- Henry and Angela and others, and
19 Ray bringing up this concern, that it was able to get the
20 attention. I'm not saying it's going to happen every time
21 but I think you guys need to be recognized that you helped
22 move this along.

23

24 MS. REID: That's right.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you still there, Philip?

27

28 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Still here, Ron.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, yeah, did you have
31 anything else because I'd like to reconvene over at the other
32 place?

33

34 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, well, I'd just like
35 to thank Vince for letting me sit in on this teleconference.
36 I tried to get others but they're really working and you
37 know, after the moose hunting closed, it seemed like this
38 year there wasn't too many complaints about, you know, cows
39 being killed, but you know, that's -- there was just one
40 incident about a bull being shot, you know, in the water and
41 it wasn't salvaged and all that.

42

43 OFFICER BLANK: Right.

44

45 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: But other than that,
46 overall, after the moose hunting closed, we still have, you
47 know, lots of moose around here, lots of bulls and cows and
48 also we want to keep them numbers high in the future years.
49 I'd just like to say on behalf of the GASH area, to say
50 thanks for the refuge law enforcement officer and the State,

00098

1 once, again, appreciate it. And thank you, Mr. Chairman,
2 again for letting me be on the teleconference.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thanks for your
5 participation Philip, and I think we'll be grilling our
6 refuge manager and our enforcement officer a little bit more
7 on how to get the same results up in our area, too. Thank
8 you. See you Philip.

9

10 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, thanks.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (On record)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to call our meeting
17 back to order. Do we have any further questions on this
18 issue, the teleconference that we had?

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: Well, the only think was,
21 remember, you wanted to ask them how did they come about to
22 have such intensive area, and we'd like to.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

25

26 MR. STICKMAN: This is Michael Stickman. The
27 one thing about the teleconference was the increased effort
28 on the State's part and the Feds. It's something that we'd
29 like to see in our area, too, so maybe we'd like to -- or
30 maybe they can tell us the proper process for having
31 something like this in our area?

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

34

35 MS. REID: Well, I can't speak for the
36 managers in your area at the refuges, but what -- something
37 I forgot to mention that Ray reminded me of when we first
38 talked about doing this expanded law enforcement effort. The
39 Council wrote a letter in support expressing their concerns
40 about wanton waste and things like that going on on the
41 refuge and around the refuge. And that was a big help to
42 make our case that we needed this additional funding to
43 expand this law enforcement effort. So I think that'd be
44 your first step across the board, no matter who you're
45 dealing with, to get together as a Council and write a letter
46 of support to increase funding for an expanded law
47 enforcement effort.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any more questions
50 from the Council? Do you have anything else to add, Ray?

00099

1 MR. COLLINS: No, I can't think of anything
2 else but it was partly our efforts and the fact that Ed
3 picked up on that, he was at the meetings and he was going to
4 go for extra funding after hearing our discussions.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

7
8 MR. COLLINS: So it was working together with
9 the refuge that got it. But I think on the State's part, I
10 guess, it was probably Ed working with you and contacting you
11 and encouraging you.

12
13 OFFICER BLANK: That's right. And my captain,
14 Captain Jim Cockrel, who's based out of Anchorage, also has
15 some contact with the people of Holy Cross and he's had some
16 experiences around the lower part of the Innoko, so he was
17 aware of the situation. But I would encourage each and every
18 one of you to get in touch with the detachment commanders for
19 your respective areas and I can tell you who those people
20 are. I don't know where all of you live but, for example,
21 Allakaket, you would want to get in touch with Lieutenant
22 David Lorrington in the Fairbanks office of Fish and Wildlife
23 Protection. The local Trooper in that area is Trooper
24 Bettingfield who's stationed in ColdFoot. So you would want
25 to start working with your local Trooper and through his
26 detachment commander. I can also give you the name of our
27 field enforcement commander who is Major Joe DiMeco, and he
28 works in the Anchorage headquarters. And he has a lot of say
29 so about what field enforcement programs are conducted and
30 which ones are not. We get requests every year for stepped
31 up enforcement in given areas, and Major Joe DiMeco has a lot
32 of say so as to what we're going to do.

33
34 MR. COLLINS: I think letters should be
35 written back to both agencies, both State and Federal
36 thanking them for their efforts and appreciation for their
37 support for what happened in the Innoko this year. Because
38 that could help in future funding.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, did you get that?

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I got that letters need to
43 go to the State enforcement and refuge enforcement efforts
44 thanking them for their past effort on the GASH area.

45
46 MR. COLLINS: And I suppose those should go
47 -- who would you -- on your effort, would it go to your
48 commander?

49
50 OFFICER BLANK: It would go to Colonel John Glass.

00100

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. And your part, Laura?

2

3 MS. REID: You could send it to the refuge
4 and we could forward it to Subsistence Division.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Will you be available
9 throughout this meeting?

10

11 MS. REID: Yes.

12

13 OFFICER BLANK: Yes.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: We may be calling you back
16 when we get into moose management. Thank you for your
17 effort.

18

19 OFFICER BLANK: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Henry.

22

23 MR. DEACON: I'd like to just put in a few
24 words, too, for Ed for working with the villages close, with
25 the elders, asking questions and any complaints or
26 recommendations, always asking those kind of questions. I
27 was kind of sad to see him leave us so sudden, you know, to
28 leave the Innoko Refuge. So that's what I wanted to put on
29 the record.

30

31 I got a few calls from this law enforcement. We've
32 been saying this for -- ever since, I don't know when, Fish
33 and Game seem -- they don't listen to the people in the
34 villages in the past, for this year, that's the first time I
35 ever seen any enforcement effort that was made and it's good
36 that a law that's made somebody's responsible to respond to
37 those, not the village people, and I'm glad to see that
38 action. You know, it's even been brought up to us, you know,
39 the only way you can do that is to bring it the court,
40 lawsuit against the state and the Federal for not following
41 the regulations. It's what's written down, you know. So I'm
42 glad to see that we don't have to do those things, it's
43 improving. And I'd like to thank both the State and the
44 Federal for that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, any more for Innoko?

47

48 MR. REAKOFF: I also want to commend the
49 Innoko Refuge and the State for bringing forth this program.
50 I think that whether the cases were made or not, enforcement

00101

1 presence is what reduced the wanton waste this year, and that
2 was what the main -- at least my main concern was, all this
3 wanton waste of these thousands of pounds of resource. So
4 thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments or
7 questions? If not, thank you again, and I'm sure we'll be
8 calling you back. Thank you. Do we have anything else
9 before we go into wanton waste?

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, that I know
12 of.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I'd like to turn it
15 back to Vince because like I said, when he and I went through
16 this agenda it was early this summer when it was really clear
17 in our mind what we wanted, so wanton waste, Vince.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Basically
20 over the past couple of years you guys have talked about
21 wanton waste and at this round, I think it started a year
22 ago, if not sooner, you wanted an open discussion about
23 wanton waste, what are the legal definitions and what are the
24 traditional definitions or views of wanton waste, and how
25 maybe wanton waste could be addressed to better incorporate
26 the feelings of the local users.

27
28 You have under Tab, I think it's D, just the basic
29 bones of the information on wanton waste. You have the State
30 law first and then you have the Federal regulation and then
31 you have the State regulation. Now, that's just the basic
32 information on it, the background of it. And we're going to
33 try to piece this together. I did invite -- or you did
34 invite, using your letterhead, I forgot his name, the
35 Lieutenant that serves this area and the officer, but the
36 invitation went out about three weeks ago and with all the
37 pending actions with the Legislature it's possible they
38 weren't able to get permission or be able to schedule this
39 meeting but I did invite them because I did talk to
40 Lieutenant Dave Lorrington about potential actions with the
41 Department of Law, I believe it is, with the State to look at
42 revisions to the state law. But those revisions are not in
43 -- are not written down yet. There's not drafts of that out.
44 This all came up during the Koyukuk River Moose Hunting
45 Working Group, and that's when I was exposed to that there is
46 potential weaknesses in the State law. But we have nothing
47 to present on that. They're still working on those potential
48 drafts. And he indicated they'd be out in January. But I
49 don't know how we would plug into that.

50

00102

1 So that's the status of it. We have some suggestions
2 because you've brought up wanton waste in your annual report
3 and the Board did respond to wanton waste, so I think either
4 George or Pete will discuss that response. And we do have
5 Officer Blank here but he's kind of called on the spot, he
6 didn't know exactly what all this entailed so I hope you
7 would show respect in that area, that, you know, he's being
8 thrown into the whole mish-mash right now. And Pete may want
9 to talk more about it.

10
11 MR. DeMATTEO: More specifically, your annual
12 report to the Federal Board you requested that the Federal
13 Board review the Federal and State regulations that deal with
14 wanton waste. And in its response to the Council, you'll
15 find in Tab G, the very first item, you'll see that response
16 to the Council. On the second page, third item, it says
17 stronger protection against wanton waste. The Board states
18 that it states the Council's concerns regarding the waste of
19 Alaska's wildlife resources and that the Board also concurs
20 with the Council that if this problem is to be resolved that
21 Federal and State regulations concerning the salvage and use
22 of fish and wildlife must be aligned.

23
24 The first step, and most logical step, would be to
25 compare existing Federal regulations to that of the State for
26 wanton waste. And basically they found that these
27 regulations are highly consistent except in two areas. The
28 first one was the salvage of meat. The Federal regulations
29 does state which animals that meat is to be salvaged but it
30 does not exactly say which parts of the animal are to be
31 salvaged and there's no clear definition of the word,
32 salvage, in the Federal regulations.

33
34 I will point out to you that in your last meeting in
35 Galena there was considerable discussion amongst council
36 members here about the term, eligible meat. You had a
37 problem with the existing definition of eligible meat. You
38 felt that it wasn't as tight as it could be. You also stated
39 in your annual letter to the Board that you'd like to have a
40 working group or a work session here at this meeting to
41 possibly make proposals to the Federal Board, recommendations
42 for better regulations concerning salvage of meat and also
43 wanton waste regulations. I guess one option you do have is
44 to put a proposal to the Board mirroring the State's
45 definition of salvage or a similar proposal, something
46 similar to that definition, to the Board.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky, you expressed some
49 concerns a possible proposal?

50

00103

1 MR. STICKMAN: Yes. The Middle Yukon and the
2 Koyukuk Advisory Committee, when we had our joint meeting in
3 Huslia last week, we did have one proposal for maybe changing
4 the State regulation as far as wanton waste is concerned.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this proposal available at
7 this time?

8
9 MR. STICKMAN: I'm not too sure if anybody at
10 the -- I know I didn't bring it with me but Randy would
11 probably have it with him tomorrow. Unless there's someone
12 here from the State that was there at the meeting.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Pete.

15
16 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, as Vince mentioned
17 under Tab D of your book, you have the State regulations and
18 Federal regulations. As a starting point the Federal
19 regulations is it says which animals are to be salvaged but
20 it does not say which parts of the animals to be salvaged.
21 And there is no, again, no definition for the word, salvage,
22 so that would be a good starting point. And then following
23 that is the State regulation with their definition of salvage
24 and that's on -- the pages are not numbered, per se, but it
25 will say, Page 14 at the bottom of the State definitions, it
26 has the word, salvage. Keep in mind that any proposal that
27 you put forth to the Federal Board will only cover Federal
28 regulations that affect rural users.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Where are we, I'm lost here?

31
32 MR. DeMATTEO: Tab D.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: D?

35
36 MR. DeMATTEO: D. And there's three
37 sections. One says State law, the second one says Federal
38 regulations, the third one says State regulations.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: And where are you now?

41
42 MR. DeMATTEO: Go to the second page, State
43 regulations, and it says, possession and transportation at
44 the top.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

47
48 MR. DeMATTEO: Second column at the very
49 bottom there's a box, the second item says, salvage, and that
50 is the State's definition of salvage.

00104

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

4
5 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, as far as what
6 was portrayed by Lieutenant Lorrington at that Koyukuk River
7 moose hunter's planning meeting, this definition doesn't have
8 enough teeth in it to enforce. And he was stating that they
9 were going to come up with better language by the Judicial
10 Department of the State to find out what it would take, and
11 then Vince is saying they're not going to come up with that
12 language until, what, January?

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: That's what I understood from
15 the Lieutenant, yes.

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: So, you know, this seems to be
18 black and white, but in court, I guess, this doesn't stand
19 up. So we need to be all on the same sheet of music with
20 whatever the Attorney General comes up with as far as what is
21 going to be an enforceable salvage clause. So I'm not sure
22 what we can really do right now until they make their
23 definition, what they're going to propose to the Legislature.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

26
27 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, in talking to
28 people about this and maybe I could ask Andy if he cares to
29 comment on it, is I understand that as long as the meat is
30 brought from the field and in camp, even if it's piled on the
31 ground or in plastic bags, that's been salvaged, and it's
32 hard to get them for negligence because of mishandling if
33 they've actually -- or they put it in a rubber boat and float
34 for five days, they've salvaged the meat, they've got it all
35 there but if it's spoiled because they didn't hang it up or
36 didn't put it into cloth bags, they can't enforce that; is
37 that right?

38
39 OFFICER BLANK: That is correct.

40
41 MR. COLLINS: So it has to do with the care
42 of the meat even after it's salvaged that you didn't take
43 reasonable precaution to try to keep it from spoiling and
44 that's where it seems to be a loophole in there. Because
45 they brought it in, it's on the ground there but it rained on
46 it and so that's weather and the fact that they put it in a
47 plastic bag and it's 50 degrees out there or something and it
48 starts rotting, well, they salvaged it but the weather got
49 it. So that's the area that would have to be made more
50 enforceable, I guess, that shows negligence somehow in waste.

00105

1 Has there been any discussions in the Department about that
2 or what could be done that would make it enforceable?

3

4 OFFICER BLANK: Well, I'm sure that this has been
5 discussed a lot, especially at the level of the Board of
6 Game, and I talked with Mike Fleegle a little bit about this
7 and, you know, they've tried to word this to where we have
8 all the teeth that we can possibly sink into this matter and
9 make it enforceable but the bottom line is once you bring it
10 out of the field, if you take it right to the dump and throw
11 it away, there isn't much we can do about it. And I think
12 district attorneys are reluctant to get involved in a
13 situation like that. Basically what we want to see is the
14 meat coming out of the field and coming home and what's
15 edible to one person might not be edible to another, see.
16 And it's a very difficult thing. So from the field
17 enforcement standpoint of view, we want to see all of the
18 edible meat, and there is a definition for edible meat, we
19 want to see those portions of the animal coming out of the
20 field and we want to see them coming ahead of the antlers or
21 at the same time. And that's about as far as it goes.

22

23 And if someone -- and I've seen this, I've seen meat
24 hanging in a meathouse that was totally rotten, but there's
25 nothing wrong with that at that point. I've seen people land
26 with a float plane and go right to the dump and throw the
27 meat away and then continue on their way and there isn't much
28 we can do about that. It's not right but at this point it's
29 a very difficult thing to enforce. So that's why we try to
30 get at it out in the field before they get out of the field,
31 see, we try to get them in the camp with their antlers and
32 only half of the moose or we try to go to the kill sites to
33 inspect what meat is left behind.

34

35 I hope I'm answering your question but it's a very
36 difficult thing. You know the word in the statute is,
37 edible, edible meat must be salvaged. We have people that
38 are figuring out right now, well, those ribs sat in the swamp
39 over night and I went back the next day and they're no longer
40 edible and so because they're not edible I don't have to
41 salvage it. Well, we can deal with that kind of an attitude
42 at the field level because we make them pack it out and if
43 they don't and it's lost in the field they get cited. But a
44 lot of people are hanging their hat on this word edible now.
45 To them, if it's not edible they don't have to bring it out.
46 So if they a moose sit on the ground long enough and it
47 spoils it's no longer edible so they don't have to pack it,
48 and they think that's a defense to packing out to the
49 antlers.

50

00106

1 And that's a situation where we then have to prove
2 negligence. I'm sure you have the definitions in your
3 handouts but it says, it's a misdemeanor for a person who
4 kills a big game animal or species of wild fowl to fail
5 intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal
6 negligence to salvage for human consumption the edible meat
7 of the animal or fowl. So at the field level we attempt to
8 show that there is negligence involved. Most of these cases
9 the antlers are back in camp or they came out and the meat
10 did not, that makes our job a lot easier. But the ones that
11 are very frustrating are when they land in town, like
12 McGrath, for example, and the meat ends up in the dump and
13 yet they continue on their way with their antlers. Or if
14 someone lets -- hangs a moose in their meathouse and it rots
15 and people are offended by that, there isn't anything I can
16 do about it, because it's home and it's in their possession.
17 It's no different than if they cut up the moose and wrapped
18 it, put it in their freezer and it sat there for two years
19 and then two years later they threw it out because it went
20 bad in the freezer, there's nothing we can do about that.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Pete, did you have
23 something to add?

24
25 MR. DeMATTEO: No.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: How far does this Council want
28 to pursue wanton waste?

29
30 MR. STICKMAN: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

33
34 MR. STICKMAN: I guess the idea behind it in
35 Huslia was to have something on the books so that we don't
36 miss the opportunity to have a proposal in to actually make
37 a difference in the wanton waste or to try to change law. We
38 didn't want to miss the opportunity so we had to put
39 something in there to hold the space.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: And this proposal is.....

42
43 MR. STICKMAN: It was a proposal but it
44 wasn't absolute, it's still open for discussion.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. As you're aware we've
47 got until March to bring it before the -- well, what's the
48 last date for submission before the State Board of Game on
49 proposals?

50

00107

1 MR. MATHEWS: December 10th.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: December 10th, okay. We've
4 got until December 10th to try to fine-tune it and bring it
5 before the State Board of Game. And if it's fine with the
6 Board, I'd like to -- Randy Rogers may have a copy or
7 something, do you want to discuss this proposal a little bit
8 more tomorrow?

9
10 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry.

13
14 MR. DEACON: You know, wanton waste, if you
15 let them take it away with the horns. Why don't you take the
16 horns away, too, from them. That should be in the proposals,
17 too. They waste the meat, they lose the horns.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: I guess that could be worded
20 into it, how far that goes -- Ray, you had something?

21
22 MR. COLLINS: Well, I thought Andy had a
23 comment, I think.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Andy.

26
27 OFFICER BLANK: Under State law, the way it's written
28 right now that's exactly what happens. It's again the
29 statutes for a person to possess the horns or antlers of a
30 big game animal unless it's accompanied by all of the edible
31 meat. The only exception to that is if the animal's been
32 consumed or given away. And if someone is cited for wanton
33 waste, all salvaged portions of the animals have to be turned
34 in, and that includes the antlers or horns of a big game
35 animal. And then upon conviction the court has to forfeit
36 the illegally taken game. So that's also covered under our
37 statutes and our regulations. And we have a regulation that
38 also says, antlers shall not be removed from the kill site
39 until all of the edible meat has been removed from the kill
40 site and antlers shall not be removed from the field until
41 all of the edible meat has been removed from the field.

42
43 So if you shoot a big trophy bull moose out in the
44 swamp you'd better be packing the meat out to your camp or to
45 the river and then the antlers come simultaneously or with
46 the last load of meat. And then if a float plane comes in to
47 pick up the animal the meat has to go first and the antlers
48 come last. And it has to be that way all along the way until
49 it gets to where it's either going to be processed or
50 consumed. And that's under statute and State regulation as

00108

1 well. So it's covered in two different areas.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Well, there's one other thing
4 that hasn't been mentioned here and that is leaving meat on
5 the bone. Now, there's a regulation in certain areas that
6 that is also required; isn't that right?

7

8 OFFICER BLANK: That's right. Moose taken in 19(A),
9 within the whole Holitna controlled use area, moose and
10 caribou in 19(B) and moose taken in 21(A) and 21(E). The
11 four quarters. The meat has to remain naturally attached to
12 the meat of the hindquarters and the frontquarters. The ribs
13 can be boned out, the neck can be boned out, the backstraps
14 can be boned out, the brisket. But I don't know if they
15 thought of this when they initially drafted the regulation,
16 but you can take a hindquarter and you can cut it up into 100
17 different pieces and that's okay as long as the bone remains
18 naturally attached.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this also required in some
21 parts of Unit 24?

22

23 OFFICER BLANK: I believe so but I'm not familiar
24 with those area regulations.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry.

27

28 MR. DEACON: Have you taken any horns away?

29

30 OFFICER BLANK: Oh, yes, we've taken lots of antlers
31 away. I have a whole shed full of them. From this.....

32

33 MR. DEACON: From this year?

34

35 OFFICER BLANK:year alone. Yes. Yes, I have
36 -- primarily a lot of the antlers were taken because we had
37 a fair number of sublegal bull moose taken by non-residents
38 so we seized those. But for example, the group of Texas
39 hunters, their antlers have all been seized. Any time we get
40 into a wanton waste case, we make sure we seize the antlers
41 because that's where they put the priority. So we're going
42 to take that priority away from them.

43

44 MR. DEACON: This is beside the question,
45 too, but you know last summer there was a sport hunter's boat
46 up the Innoko River, and when I was up there I seen all kinds
47 of moose horns all the way around that boat. And they say
48 they pick it up -- well, they do pick it up but according to
49 the law they told us that they're not supposed to land on the
50 -- land and hunt these horns. Is that true?

00109

1 OFFICER BLANK: Are you talking about picking up
2 naturally shed?

3
4 MR. DEACON: Picking up the antlers from the
5 shores?

6
7 OFFICER BLANK: From other kill sites or shed?

8
9 MR. DEACON: I don't know, horns that fall
10 off, I guess.

11
12 OFFICER BLANK: Yeah, there's nothing that prevents
13 anyone from picking up naturally shed antlers or antlers
14 found at a, say a wolf kill or an animal that might have
15 walked off wounded from a hunter and died and were eventually
16 picked up, nothing that prevents someone from doing that.

17
18 MR. DEACON: That's not what I was told by --
19 I was told by Ed, I think, that they're not supposed to do
20 that, the sport hunters.

21
22 OFFICER BLANK: If there's a refuge regulation
23 prohibiting that, I'm not aware of it.

24
25 MS. REID: Yeah, there is. Yes.

26
27 OFFICER BLANK: Okay.

28
29 MS. REID: On wildlife refuges you cannot
30 take antlers off of the refuge.

31
32 MR. DEACON: Yeah, they were on refuge land.

33
34 MS. REID: Yes.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that for refuges only?

37
38 MS. REID: Refuges only. Yeah, that's not
39 State regulations, that's Fish and Wildlife Service.

40
41 OFFICER BLANK: I'd also like the Board to know that
42 the wanton waste statute has a minimum mandatory sentence for
43 a person who fails to salvage at least the hindquarters of a
44 big game animal, and that is a minimum fine of \$2,500 to pay,
45 seven days in jail to serve, forfeiture of the animal and
46 forfeiture of that person's hunting privileges for the year
47 in which they're convicted and the following year. So
48 hopefully we take them out of commission, basically, for two
49 consecutive hunting seasons.

50

00110

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any more comments
2 or questions from the Board? If not, we invited Eastern
3 Interior, did you have any questions or comments?
4

5 MR. NICHOLIA: I have a question. Would the
6 person that I get a hold of for the Tanana area, since I deal
7 mostly in State, would the person be Jim Lowe out at the
8 Fairbanks office?
9

10 OFFICER BLANK: Yes. Jim Lowe out of Fairbanks or
11 Lieutenant Dave Lorrington, he works in that same office.
12 Trooper Lowe works for Lieutenant Lorrington. I would recommend
13 Lieutenant David Lorrington.
14

15 MR. NICHOLIA: His last name?
16

17 OFFICER BLANK: Lorrington, L-O-R-R-I-N-G.
18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.
20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince. Go ahead Benedict.
22

23 MR. JONES: On the Koyukuk controlled use
24 area for the general hunt hunters are required to catch 50-
25 inch or more spread. But subsistence users do catch smaller
26 than that and what they do at Ella's Cabin check station is
27 they cut one side of the horn off when they leave -- go
28 through the check station and we brought up this topic about
29 the horns. We had a definition and question in there what is
30 customary trade on that, the horns, because the horns can be
31 sold for a thousand dollars and one of the guys said if --
32 it's up to the hunter's decision to leave the horns there or
33 -- the ones that's cut off or take it home with them. But
34 the guys, they can put the horns back together if they want
35 -- what they call that, in Fairbanks, anyway, and he said
36 they're still useable but we brought the question up. Our
37 advisory board brought up the subject that the horns that's
38 been -- the horn's be used for education purpose for the
39 school projects or something like that, that's what we
40 recommended on our proposals.
41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.
43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I've been just
45 thinking this over because this has been an important topic
46 for this Council for quite some time. And there appears to
47 be pending action, and maybe if I could ask a question of
48 Andy -- Officer Blank, how could this Council assist in
49 supporting efforts to strengthen the statutes? And what I'm
50 leading at is that you may want to submit a letter, if you

00111

1 desire, to that effort saying you want it tightened because
2 you see edible meat or whatever you want in this light and
3 you would like to be kept informed. The reason I'm pointing
4 it towards the State and not the Federal, the effectiveness
5 is greater on the State effort -- the State side than if we
6 try to do something separately on the Federal. So I'm
7 wondering if this Council can assist in that effort, not
8 knowing what the effort is, I understand that, but your
9 safeguard would be that you would be explaining what you see
10 as waste in the field.

11
12 So is there a way that this Council can assist in
13 that effort and how would they direct it?

14
15 OFFICER BLANK: I think Ray brought up a good point,
16 you know, about the care of meat, you know, once it's down in
17 the field. I know that has a lot of people concerned. I
18 know there's a lot of experienced people on this Board and
19 they know how meat should be taken care of, and I think
20 collectively they could probably come up with some good ideas
21 that might help us in a situation where meat has been
22 basically brought from the kill site to the departure point
23 from the field but it's not really salvageable for
24 consumption. It's not in good shape. So if they can come up
25 with a way, perhaps, to further tighten that up.

26
27 And I think one of the problems that we have right
28 now -- one of the problems that I see is this term, edible.
29 Because a lot of people, again, have told me, well, it isn't
30 edible so I don't have to salvage it. Well, what we're
31 trying to get people to salvage is the frontquarters, the
32 hindquarters and everything in between, the ribs, the neck,
33 the brisket and I personally don't like the term, edible. I
34 don't care if it's edible or not, they're going to pack it
35 out. And a lot of people now are hanging their hat on that
36 term, edible; I wouldn't eat it so I'm not packing it out.
37 And then they feel like they have a defense in order for them
38 to possess their antlers. So I think that's a problem.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

41
42 MR. REAKOFF: Under this salvage, it says to
43 transport and prepare or preserve, why isn't that language --
44 I still haven't understood why that language isn't meeting
45 what the intent is to prepare and preserve.

46
47 OFFICER BLANK: I think you got to look at everything
48 that is here; under the statutes they give defenses to
49 salvaging of meat, if I can find them here.

50

00112

1 Defenses. It is a defense to a criminal charge under
2 A.S.16.30.010, which is wanton waste or 16.30.012 which says
3 you can't possess horns or antlers without all the edible
4 meat. And it says, it is a defense to those charges that the
5 failure to salvage or possess the edible meat was due to
6 circumstances beyond the control of the person charged.
7 Okay, it kind of ends there, okay, and that's giving them an
8 out right there because it was beyond the control of the
9 person charge, including theft animal or fowl, unanticipated
10 weather conditions or other acts of God, unavoidable loss in
11 the field to another wild animal. And it is also a defense
12 to a charge under possession of horns or antlers that the
13 defendant does not possess the edible meat of the big game
14 animal because the meat was consumed by human beings or
15 delivered to another person.

16
17 I've already -- I can tell you in certain situations
18 where I've had people tell me they've consumed 800 pounds of
19 caribou meat in a three day period of time. Well, I don't
20 buy that and I know nobody here does, but that's the kind of
21 stuff that people tell me out in the field. Unanticipated
22 weather conditions or other acts of God. During the fall of
23 1998 we had 10 days to two weeks of solid rain. We had lots
24 of green, stinky meat coming in and I'm sure people left meat
25 out in the field because anticipated weather conditions.
26 That's a defense. I can bring out my antlers because my meat
27 got spoiled in the field due to the rain. See, so there's a
28 lot of these excuses that we have to overcome and it requires
29 us to try to go back to their kill site to go to their camp
30 site and to thoroughly investigate whatever statement they're
31 telling us to show that they were either negligent or they
32 intentionally wasted a game animal just to possess the horns
33 or antlers.

34
35 It's a very difficult situation. Each and every case
36 we come across has different excuses, different scenarios
37 that we have to overcome in order to successfully prosecute
38 this.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

41
42 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Ida Hildebrand, BIA, Staff Committee member. I didn't know
44 your name, sir, but I'm directing this question to you.
45 Would it suffice for this Council to put forth a proposal
46 recommending that the word, edible, be deleted, that they
47 instead, require the quarters and the various parts of the
48 animal to be removed from the field with a prohibition
49 against using brown plastic bags and further, request that it
50 be removed from the field to the point of origin of the

00113

1 hunter?

2

3 OFFICER BLANK: Well, there's a number of questions,
4 I think, that ought to be answered there by our assistant
5 Attorney General that deals with a lot of this. But
6 certainly, I, personally think that term, edible, could be
7 eliminated. Because what we're after here is we want people
8 to salvage certain pieces of big game, which basically
9 includes all the meat. We know what that means. I think
10 edible needs to be eliminated. As to how it's taken care of
11 in the field, that's a very subjective thing. And I think
12 that's something for further discussion by, not only this
13 panel but perhaps the Board of Game at the State level.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any more comments
16 or questions? Pete.

17

18 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, I see that there's
19 a number of loose ends that need to be tied up between the
20 Federal and State regulations. But one thing I do see for
21 certain is you can put a proposal to the Federal Board to
22 state exactly which parts of the animal you want to see
23 salvaged. I don't think there's any question there.

24

25 OFFICER BLANK: We do have a definition for that, and
26 I don't know if that's mirrored in the Federal regulations or
27 not but we do have a definition of edible meat.

28

29 MR. DeMATTEO: No, it is not in the Federal
30 regulations but if you want to see the State regulations,
31 look on Page 14 in Section D or E, Vince?

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: D.

34

35 MR. DeMATTEO: I guess it's D.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: What are we looking at?

38

39 MR. DeMATTEO: Section 14 -- or Page 14,
40 possession and transportation, first column under big game.
41 And George just pointed out that I do stand corrected, that
42 we do have somewhat of a definition of edible meat parts that
43 are to be salvaged under the Federal regulations. George
44 assures me that they do match word for word, pretty much so.
45 The question is, does the Council feel it's adequate enough?

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

50

00114

1 MR. MATHEWS: And that would only affect
2 Federally qualified subsistence users unless you made some
3 type of action that required other hunters to do that. So it
4 is a way of making sure that more traditional practices are
5 in regulation for subsistence users to follow but it would
6 not affect non-local hunters that would be hunting in the
7 same area under State regulation. And so that's where the
8 confusion may be here and that's why we're hesitant to speak
9 because we're intruding into State actions and State law.
10 But I think Ida was on to the right track there that you may
11 want to insert yourself through a letter or some means of
12 communication to this process that, if I got it right,
13 Division of Law -- Department of Law's looking at, I'm not
14 sure if they're the ones, and then I'm putting Andy on the
15 spot but I have no other source to go by, I don't know what
16 committees in the State Legislature would review this, that
17 you would also copy that same letter to so when they review
18 what the law -- Department of Law is presenting they would
19 know the concerns of subsistence users of Western Interior on
20 this issue. And I don't think this is all going to come to
21 resolution next year but it is possible but it is unlikely on
22 that.

23
24 That's how I see to go but I'm way out there on thin
25 ice moving into State law, which I don't have authority to.
26 So that's the way I would see the cleanest way because the
27 regulations are built on statute. We need to separate
28 statute from regulation. What I'm understanding, and someone
29 please correct me if I'm wrong, that the apparent weaknesses
30 are in statute. And I'm not a lawyer to know but I would
31 guess that if you don't correct them there, I'm not sure how
32 much you can correct in regulation.

33
34 OFFICER BLANK: It would have to be corrected in the
35 statute first by the Legislature and then the Board of Game
36 can adopt regulations that mirror the statute.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: So it would be better if that
39 -- seems to be in agreement, would be to focus on the
40 statute.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the statute would have to
43 be changed by who?

44
45 OFFICER BLANK: The Legislature.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So if we draft a
48 letter, we would draft it to the State Legislature then?

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. But I would need to

00115

1 know, we'd go to Department of Law, assuming that's the one
2 that's carrying this forward, and then we'd need to find out
3 what committees review that. And I think.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Resource.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS:resources, and I don't
8 know which other one. And then the letter will get lost in
9 the shuffle because of how the committee's go but it would
10 still track through. We're not sure what the Legislature's
11 going to do in January or how to get this on the agenda and
12 all that. But then you would -- whoever the Chair is of that
13 committee would get a copy of this letter, and it just plugs
14 you in and then asked to be kept informed. And it could be
15 a lengthy process but I think it's the key to all the
16 discussions as an observer for you since '94/95. I see this
17 as a key issue for a lot of your discussions. That's why I
18 keep inserting myself, so I apologize for that, but I see
19 this as a key to a lot of things that you've discussed that
20 we haven't been able to deal with.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

23
24 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make
25 a motion that a letter be transmitted to the Department of
26 Law in regards to the correct Legislative statute that would
27 tighten up the wording which reflects what wanton waste is in
28 regards to what the Western Interior and advisory committees
29 regard as wanton waste, and that's removal from the field of
30 all of the edible meat in a spoiled condition. And that's
31 basically what we want to see corrected.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

34
35 MR. STICKMAN: I second the motion.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further discussion.

38
39 MR. DEACON: Question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called for,
42 this is for drafting up the letter and could we clarify the
43 language later.....

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM:or do you want to clear
48 it now? Is this what we were looking for, a letter?

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

00116

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: There is a motion on the floor
2 which has been seconded, question has been called for. All
3 those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, then the mover of
14 the motion would want that copied to the appropriate
15 committees then also?

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: And it would be easier for me
20 to work with Jack on that wording and get that letter out, we
21 do have some time before the Legislature meets. Would that
22 be okay to work with the mover of the motion on the wording
23 of that? You would still review it, Chair, and sign it.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS:but I want to make sure
28 that I capture all that Jack had portrayed there. Is that
29 okay with everyone?

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's fine with us.
32 Everybody says, yes, they don't have to work. Carl.

33
34 MR. MORGAN: Yes, I think the letter is fine.
35 Unless there's somebody in the Legislature or the Senate to
36 introduce a bill, then it -- the letter will go no place, so
37 there has to be introduction. Just writing it to the
38 Resource Committee is not going to cut it. Because they
39 don't have to act, it's going to have to be somebody
40 introducing a bill or a resolution for a regulation change
41 because this takes a regulation change in the Board of Game.
42 I know there's some fingers pointing at me, I'll take up that
43 notion to do it if it was addressed to me, to my office. But
44 I'd also recommend what the Trooper says, delete edible.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Do we have
47 any more comments or questions? With the Koyukuk River Moose
48 Working Group, we are also addressing this issue. And at one
49 of our meetings in Fairbanks, we noticed and we know of the
50 difference between the State regulations and proposals before

00117

1 the Board, some of these we will introduce as proposals,
2 however, we will be directing a lot of it to the State
3 Legislature. I agree with you on that edible because we've
4 been fighting that for a good number of years and it's kind
5 of hard to argue with the Outdoor Council on what is edible
6 and what is not even before the State Board of Game.

7
8 Do we have anything else? Gerald.

9
10 MR. NICHOLIA: Vince, you guys, I'd like you
11 guys to send all this information to the Tanana Tribal
12 Council or I will be in touch with Vince on this because I
13 want to do something in our area about this situation, too.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. And again, thank you for
16 your participation, and we will be calling on Eastern
17 Interior, too, because I think that's where most of our
18 concerns are coming from. But again, we'll be working
19 closely with the lower Kuskokwim, too.

20
21 Pete.

22
23 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, just for the
24 record, following my marching order, is the Council holding
25 off on putting forth proposals to the Federal Board at this
26 time concerning these issues?

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's our last day to present
29 proposals before the Federal Subsistence Board?

30
31 MR. DeMATTEO: November 5.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: When?

34
35 MR. DeMATTEO: November 5th.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Should we pursue this issue?

38
39 MR. DeMATTEO: Your option is to wait and see
40 what the State comes up with and also the Koyukuk River Moose
41 Hunter Working Group and you could put a proposal in next
42 year in an effort that they parallel each other.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I think that to
47 make a proposal to the Federal Board at this time would be
48 premature without having everybody being on the same sheet of
49 music as far as what the Department of Law and what is going
50 to be submitted on the Legislature on the changes.

00118

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that the consensus of this
2 Board?

3
4 OFFICER BLANK: Mr. Chairman.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

7
8 OFFICER BLANK: If I could maybe add one additional
9 comment, sir. I don't know if there's a lot of people that
10 would go along with this but in areas where non-residents,
11 for example, are required to shoot a moose with, at least,
12 50-inch antlers, because I have seen a problem with sublegal
13 moose being taken. Perhaps a recommendation that non-
14 residents in these areas be accompanied by a guide and that
15 might also help alleviate the wanton waste.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think that's
20 going to be discussed during the Koyukuk River. I didn't
21 make that Huslia meeting but I think they were going forward
22 in that working group to suggest that non-resident hunters
23 have to have a guide for big game species, so I think it
24 might be better to wait on that discussion then to take
25 action.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think so, too. We're
28 putting a lot of load on Koyukuk River moose again, and that
29 -- we don't have any choice because we don't have the
30 information in front of us. Again, a lot of -- we will be
31 discussing a lot of proposals and possibly letters to the
32 State Legislature concerning wanton waste also. How far do
33 we want to pursue wanton waste at this time? Keep going?
34 Possible solutions?

35
36 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

39
40 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair, we've discussed this
41 on wanton waste but we're trying to define like the Trooper
42 here said, where is the edible, non-edible meat. We've
43 discussed that lots. The Koyukuk River Moose Management
44 Working Group brought up the suggestion that if it's green or
45 full of maggots and sour, it's not edible, so we're trying to
46 define that language -- put it into language, where do we say
47 it's non-edible?

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Like Mr. Blank stated, maybe
50 we could delete that question altogether if we can delete the

00119

1 word, edible, out of the description and come up with just
2 redefining that whole salvage process, right?

3
4 OFFICER BLANK: Right.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: We should take a close look at
7 that because anything that we change could be worse than
8 what's already there. Do we have any more comments on wanton
9 waste?

10
11 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

14
15 MR. MORGAN: Could I push this idea out and
16 I was just discussing it with Pete. You know, there's
17 another -- you know, with the outfitters because I think
18 that's most of our violations with the outfitters, they go
19 out on their own and it's not like the guides, and the guides
20 do guide. And the outfitters are the ones we're having a
21 problem with because they can go out, you outfit them, you
22 drop off 10 people with a boat, raft, and they're on their
23 own. There's another thought you might want to consider,
24 it's like the observer program in the fishery. For every
25 five people the outfitter got you put one observer with them,
26 either from the non-profit from the village, and who's going
27 to pay that person's wage is the hunters themselves. So
28 therefore, that person's going to teach them how to cut the
29 moose, treat it right, hang it up, and I think you'll see
30 some of the wanton waste drop.

31
32 You know, that's just a thought. Food for thought.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further on wanton
35 waste at this time? If not, I'm sure we'll come back to it
36 and hit it, probably in more detail when Randy Rogers comes
37 in. I'd like to thank you Mr. Blank for your presentation,
38 and again, stick around for the meeting.

39
40 Do we know of any other activities that are taking
41 place here in this hall tonight?

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: I'll have to check with the
44 tribal council office. I don't know if Carl knows of any
45 plans, I'd have to check to see if the hall is committed.

46
47 MR. MORGAN: No.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Carl is saying no so we have
50 the hall this evening, or the rest of the day, excuse me.

00120

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: How far does the Council want
2 to go on this meeting here tonight? Do you want to continue
3 for a little while?
4

5 MR. DEACON: I would like to make it long
6 because I would like to leave on my 3:00 o'clock tomorrow and
7 I don't know if we'd be through by then.
8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we're all leaving
10 tomorrow, what time about 6:30?
11

12 MR. MATHEWS: You're on the -- it's on the
13 6:50 flight.
14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.
16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Everyone's on the same plane.
18 I confirmed that, those that are leaving.
19

20 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chairman, I saw a sign that
21 said something, I don't know if they're going to have a
22 meeting or not, but city council meeting at 7:00 o'clock, the
23 13th.
24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's in a different
26 location. And Mr. Chairman, I need to work on lunch orders
27 for tomorrow which I can pass around. You could sign up for
28 it but you don't get your -- it doesn't get ordered if you
29 don't pay. But I can pass that around, just put your name
30 down what you want and then come to me with the money and
31 I'll check you off and then I'll put the order in tonight.
32 Now, I need an assessment if you're thinking of meeting
33 tonight and how that may play into lunch tomorrow so I don't
34 know. If you could give us a readout of where you think --
35 you're right on time and actually you're ahead of time
36 according to the schedule but, again, the schedule was done
37 in July, it was sunny out and, you know, everything was just
38 a summer day, so not pushing you to leave early but you guys
39 are moving along. So I need an assessment, what do you
40 think?
41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.
43

44 MR. COLLINS: Some of the agencies are ready
45 -- the reports are tomorrow morning but I see a lot of the
46 people here and if they were ready couldn't we get a few of
47 those out of the way now even before we adjourn today?
48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that would be my wish.
50 We took care of Hollis Twitchell, are you done?

00121

1 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Do any of our
4 agencies or staff members have to leave tomorrow or early at
5 any time? Gabe.

6

7 MR. SAM: Mr. Chair, my plane leaves at 3:00
8 o'clock, but, you know, check-in time is like at 2:00
9 o'clock. I was looking at the agenda and I was wondering if
10 I would be able to make it by then but because the working
11 group is -- the Koyukuk River Working Group is going to be
12 giving their reports. My report kind of coincides with
13 theirs.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: So you won't be.....

16

17 MR. SAM: Not that I'm with them.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

20

21 MR. SAM:you know, it's just.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Gabe, you'd rather wait
24 until.....

25

26 MR. SAM: If it looks like it's going to be
27 in the morning time, the agencies.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, when are these people
30 coming in?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, it might be
33 easier to look by agency and the next one beyond the list is
34 the Kuskokwim Native Association if they wanted to speak, or
35 local village and tribal councils. So I don't know if Angie
36 wanted to speak today or tomorrow, if she's willing to, and
37 then we could go and look at the State, and just kind of go
38 down the list and see if anybody wanted to speak.

39

40 MS. MORGAN: I'd rather wait until tomorrow
41 because I had some -- a few things that I wanted to gather
42 and I didn't get a chance to do it today.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angie. So are you
45 willing to wait, Gabe, until tomorrow?

46

47 MR. SAM: (Nods affirmatively)

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: You.

50

00122

1 MS. WHEELER: I'll help speed you along. My
2 name is Polly Wheeler, I'm with the Division of Subsistence
3 in Fairbanks. I'm the regional program manager for Interior,
4 Western and Arctic. And I have one Staff person with me here
5 today, Dave Andersen, who is the subsistence resource
6 specialist for the interior. And you all know Dave, you
7 don't all know me because I'm relatively new to the position.
8 I just started in January and I took Elizabeth Andrew's
9 position in the Fairbanks's office.

10
11 I'll keep this short, under a couple of hours anyway,
12 I kid. Like I said, my name's Polly Wheeler and I'm in the
13 Fairbanks's office. The Subsistence Division, as most of you
14 know, is a research division rather than a management
15 division of the Department. We've been involved in a bunch
16 of different projects throughout the area that you guys
17 represent. The most obvious one or the biggest one at this
18 point is Dave's big game harvest report which he just
19 finished the third year and we're hopeful that we can get
20 funding to do the fourth year. I mean we're planning on
21 doing this project this year again. I'll keep talking a
22 little bit and then let Dave talk about that project that
23 he's handing the summary sheet on.

24
25 A couple other things that we're doing in this
26 region, we have a -- I have a subsistence resource specialist
27 in Bethel, Mike Coffeen, some of you may know him. And Mike
28 is in the 10th year of a subsistence salmon harvest project
29 all up and down the Kuskokwim River. He samples every
30 household all up and down the Kuskokwim and the number of
31 households escapes me right now, I think it's somewhere
32 around 2,000 on their subsistence salmon harvest. He has two
33 techs that work for him. He interviews people on a household
34 to household basis and he also does salmon calendars and post
35 cards. And he will have the results of that. He's working
36 on the data collection right now and typically he'll have the
37 summary report by early spring. So if you're interested in
38 getting that, I can certainly send a copy to Vince and then
39 he can distribute it to you all.

40
41 We've been working, as you probably all well aware,
42 the fish for dogs issue has come back up before the Board of
43 Game, I don't know if Dave and Vince are going to talk about
44 that. We've been -- one of the things that we've been doing
45 is Dave's been working in Eagle to try -- where the whole
46 issue came up, initially, this last time, which subsequently
47 went to the Board of Game, to look at, again, the issue of
48 feeding king salmon to dogs and what people are using their
49 dogs for, and I suspect that's an issue that's not really
50 going to go away any time soon. It seems sort of cycled in

00123

1 front of the Board of Fish every so often so we'll be keeping
2 our fingers on that project and keeping our eyes on it and
3 keep working on it.

4
5 We're involved in the Koyukuk River Moose Hunter's
6 Working Group. Dave and I have both been attending all the
7 meetings and we were lucky enough to go to Huslia last -- at
8 the end of last week and got treated extremely well by the
9 community of Huslia and had a really good productive meeting.
10 So we've been involved in that as part of the Department.

11
12 We've -- in recent years the funding that we've been
13 getting from the Legislature has been cut significantly.
14 Sometimes we put a little bit of money from the Office of
15 Subsistence Management. Every year we've proposed a couple
16 of projects for funding to the Office of Subsistence
17 Management, we're waiting to hear on which of those projects
18 have been funded. One of the projects that we have asked for
19 funding for is this big game project that Dave will talk
20 about in a minute. We also have asked for funding, the
21 Tribal Consortium has asked the Federal Subsistence Board for
22 a project looking at customary and traditional use of
23 residents of that -- of those four communities, so we may be
24 looking at that.

25
26 Something that came up earlier, Ron, where you asked
27 -- or Mr. Chair, I should say, where you asked about the
28 whole customary trade issue, that could be -- I mean I could
29 see that if the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
30 were to ask for a project along those lines, that might be
31 something that we could look at for a potential for ANILCA
32 funding. I mean it's just a thought, I don't know how that
33 would work and it may just be something that George would do
34 or the Office of Subsistence Management would do. I don't
35 know, but that may be a potential project. And again, I'm
36 sort of new at this position so I don't exactly know how
37 those different projects are actually -- if -- if the Western
38 Interior RAC can actually ask specifically for a project --
39 as the Federal Subsistence Board for a project but I don't
40 see why it couldn't happen because (inaudible) just asked for
41 this other project to do their customary and traditional use
42 area. So that's just -- I'll throw that out as a -- as
43 something for you all to think about.

44
45 And I guess just a couple of other things. We do try
46 and cover as many meetings as possible. Like I said, my
47 area, for which I'm responsible for is Interior, Western and
48 Arctic, so I have everything north of the Alaska Range and
49 Bethel. So there's only one of me and I have a fabulous
50 Staff but there's not a lot of them so we do try and attend

00124

1 as many meetings as we can but I always try and respond
2 specifically to personal requests for any of us to be at
3 meetings. Like we asked the Chair of the Middle Yukon
4 Advisory Committee asked specifically for us to be at their
5 joint meeting last week. We would have been there anyway,
6 actually if they hadn't have asked, but the fact that they
7 did ask made us for sure be there. So if there are requests
8 for us to be at meetings we usually -- we try and work that
9 out. So I just throw that out to you as the Regional
10 Advisory Council and as -- as the numbers of subsistence
11 resource commission and ACs, too.

12
13 So with that, I'll turn it over to Dave. He can talk
14 about the big game project and then if you have any
15 questions, by all means, ask. And we'll be here, we're
16 leaving -- it better be a big plane that's coming in that's
17 leaving tomorrow night because we're on that plane, too. So
18 we'll be here for the next couple days, so if you have any
19 questions we'll be around.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Will you be here tomorrow
22 then?

23
24 MS. WHEELER: Yeah.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, before you begin, Dave,
27 does your report tie-in in any way with Randy Rogers' report
28 or status?

29
30 MR. ANDERSEN: It's a completely different
31 project. My harvest numbers do play into it a little bit, I
32 mean that plan that they're working on does take into
33 consideration the amounts that the communities are
34 harvesting. That's the connection there but I think it can
35 be done now and wouldn't have to be put off until Randy's
36 here.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

39
40 MR. ANDERSEN: But it could be if you.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

43
44 MR. ANDERSEN: Okay, you're ready?

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: But you will be around,
47 though, won't you?

48
49 MR. ANDERSEN: All day tomorrow, yeah.

50

00125

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you.

2

3 MR. ANDERSEN: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I think
4 everybody's got these green and yellow handouts now and there
5 are extras back on the table here. My name's Dave Andersen,
6 I'm based in Fairbanks with the Division of Subsistence. And
7 this Council has been very interested and supportive over the
8 last couple years of this project. Three years on the middle
9 Yukon portion of it and two years now on the Koyukuk River.
10 So I thought I'd give you just a brief summary of what took
11 place here on year three.

12

13 Again, this year we hired local residents to serve as
14 research assistants in Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles,
15 Evansville, Galena, Huslia, Kaltag, Nulato, Ruby and Tanana.
16 465 of the 634 households in the area were surveyed during
17 the month of April and that translated to a contact rate of
18 73 percent. The green sheet you have is the project summary
19 that we mailed out during the first week of July to all
20 households in the 10 survey communities. It's printed on
21 both sides and side one is kind of a text summary of the
22 highlights and the back side has most of the numbers on it
23 for the individual communities.

24

25 You can see that for each community the percent of
26 households, and I'm looking at the back side now, the
27 percentage of households using hunting and harvesting each
28 resource, moose, caribou and bear are given along with the
29 estimated total number of animals harvested.

30

31 Our estimates show an overall harvest of 404 moose,
32 366 caribou, 67 black bear and five brown bear this year. We
33 also have information on sharing of those resources, harvest
34 location, sex and timing of the harvest. And I've included
35 on the yellow sheets, some of the sex and timing information
36 just because I don't think I've showed this kind of stuff to
37 you guys before. If you look at the first one on moose, you
38 can see that moose were reported harvested in all calendar
39 months except for May, June and July. But it also shows the
40 two major harvest periods for moose, a big one in the fall
41 that represents 75 percent of the annual harvest and that one
42 is mostly bulls, 90 percent bulls. And a spring harvest
43 period representing about 21 percent of the annual harvest
44 and that one is mostly cows, 61 percent cows.

45

46 If you look at the second one on caribou, again, it
47 shows that caribou were reported harvested in all years
48 except May, June and July -- or all months, but it also shows
49 that they're primarily a winter and spring harvest animal.
50 A six month harvest period is November through April and

00126

1 bulls made up 61 percent of that harvest.

2

3 The next one on brown bear -- or black bear, shows
4 black bear are taken in this region along with moose hunting
5 in the fall and the harvest of the bears in October, November
6 and December reflects the local practice of hunting bears in
7 their dens. 79 percent of the black bear harvested were
8 males.

9

10 I got one final table there on the back that puts the
11 harvest numbers for each community for three years on the
12 middle Yukon and the two years on the Koyukuk, so we can
13 start to compare village harvest from year to year. In
14 general, I think if you look at the moose, black bear, and
15 brown bear harvest, in particular, they look pretty similar
16 between years. The one exception to that is we noticed a
17 fairly significant drop in the moose harvest for Galena this
18 past year over the two previous years and we're still trying
19 to figure out why that might have been. And another
20 exception is the apparent high harvest of black bear in
21 Tanana in 1996 and '97. Possibly because they had a low
22 harvest of moose. If you look at the data for caribou, they
23 appear to be more variable by nature on those harvests,
24 depending on the movement and availability of animals close
25 to the villages. In particular, if you look at the data from
26 Huslia for this past year, their estimated harvest of 264
27 caribou by that single community was four and a half times
28 their harvest from the previous year, so you can see what
29 happens when the caribou come and stay close to the village
30 all winter long.

31

32 So Mr. Chairman, that's a quick over view of the
33 project's third year. We're continuing to enjoy really good
34 cooperation with all the communities involved. And we're
35 beginning to see the advantages of having multiple years of
36 data from the same communities. And like Polly said, we're
37 planning on a year four if we could find the funding. So I'd
38 be happy to answer any questions you might have on the
39 project?

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Polly and Dave.
42 For the Council's information, there was quite a few years
43 that we went up before the State Board of Game without any
44 numbers, they killed all of our proposals because we didn't
45 have any numbers of harvest, and that's what instigated this
46 survey. I think it's been very successful and I'd like to
47 thank you for that because it did its job, earned the Koyukuk
48 River Moose Working Group. The one thing it did was it
49 showed for subsistence purposes, the numbers state the same
50 throughout the years, as far as local harvest went and,

00127

1 again, I'd like to thank you for doing this survey. I'm glad
2 you were able to answer most of our questions earlier when we
3 talked about customary trade, too.

4

5 Does the Board have any questions? Council members?

6

7 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I have a comment.
8 I'm wondering if it might help if this Council wrote
9 something back to those communities thanking them for their
10 participation because this data helps us in making decisions,
11 just to encourage them to keep doing that or thanking them
12 for participating with the State, do you see what I mean?

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Because we've asked them to and
17 now they did. Who would be appropriate, though, the
18 traditional council or somebody -- just a suggestion to think
19 about.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'm not clear what you're
22 asking?

23

24 MR. COLLINS: I'm asking, do you think we
25 should write back to the communities thanking them for
26 participation.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, yes.

29

30 MR. COLLINS:because this provides us
31 good data. Would that be a good idea or not, to encourage
32 them to keep doing it?

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. I think it would be more
35 than appropriate and I understand you are also seeking a
36 letter for more funding or just looking for projects?

37

38 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, we've put in for --
39 as I said, we get some -- we get a little bit of money every
40 year from the Federal, the Office of Subsistence Management,
41 it's called the ANILCA funding and this year we have
42 submitted a proposal for this big game project to be funded.
43 We haven't heard, there's a number of proposals that go in
44 from our Department and we haven't heard. I understand and
45 George may be able to answer this better than me but I
46 understood that a decision was to be made in the next couple
47 of weeks. But that was just -- that's anybody's guess
48 probably.

49

50 And as far as the other, I had just thrown out that

00128

1 if this advisory council was really interested in having
2 something done on customary trade, it might be worth a
3 request of the Federal Subsistence Board and, again, George
4 can probably answer this better than I can how that whole
5 process works.

6
7 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chairman, in respect to
8 this study I have recommended that it be continued. But I
9 don't have the final say. Hopefully within the next couple
10 of weeks or so we will know but I did forward my support for
11 continuing this study at least one more year.

12
13 In respect to the commercial trade study, I have put
14 in a proposal for them to work with ADF&G to start
15 documenting some of the data. As Peggy -- or what Peggy
16 talked about earlier when she went through fishing, there is
17 going to be a new arm developed that is not part of the
18 Office of Subsistence Management. They will have some
19 research capacity, it will be more of a research mode than
20 the Office of Subsistence Management is, and how that's all
21 going to work out, we're not sure yet. So maybe a year from
22 now would be the time to look and see where this new group of
23 people are. There's going to be a number of social
24 scientists hired. And exactly what their role in gathering
25 data related to fisheries, including perhaps customary trade
26 is, will be better defined then or better defined maybe in
27 January when we have the big meeting in Anchorage.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: So are you also looking for a
30 letter from this Council seeking funding for this study to
31 continue another year?

32
33 MR. SHERROD: I'm not sure given the time
34 frame that a letter is necessary. I can take back, if the
35 Council, that's their desire, I can verbally take that back
36 and pass that word on and I don't think we actually have to
37 go through the process of drafting a letter.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to register my
42 support for this project. This is very instrumental
43 information. And I also would like to see cooperation
44 between the subsistence managers and the Division of
45 Subsistence on this customary trade and information
46 exchanges.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Dave.

49
50 MR. ANDERSEN: Thanks, Mr. Chair. In

00129

1 response to Ray's offer to write a letter to the villages
2 that have participated in this, I believe you were asking who
3 would you write that letter to, and we've worked with the
4 tribal or traditional councils in each village to, first of
5 all, get approval for the project and to get their
6 recommendations on a person to hire in each community. So I
7 suppose that would be the appropriate council there in each
8 community.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Since I'm from one of the
11 communities mentioned, I did get a personal letter along with
12 a copy of this study and I thank you for that. So I think in
13 light of that, let's direct a letter of thanks to the tribal
14 councils for.....

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, from ourselves, because
17 this is information we need.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: So is that the direction we're
20 taking, to the tribal councils?

21

22 IN UNISON: (Nods affirmatively)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we'll direct that to
25 Vince.

26

27 MR. SHERROD: Dave, if you could provide a
28 list of addresses to Vince that would be helpful.

29

30 MR. ANDERSEN: Sure.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, this study has been very
33 instrumental in backing up our proposals. Did you have
34 anything more? Thank you. And again, I'd appreciate your
35 presence tomorrow. Do we want to go any further?

36

37 MR. DEACON: Farther the better.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: How do you feel, Ray? Tired?

40 No.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'm tired but.....

43

44 MR. DEACON: I'm tired, too.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: I vote we not sit on benches at
47 another meeting though.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you want to put it in the
50 form of a motion -- do we have to, Ray?

00130

1 MR. COLLINS: Um?

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have to put that in the
4 form of a motion or just.....

5

6 MR. COLLINS: What, don't sit on benches?

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: This letter of thanks.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: Oh, I'll so move.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

13

14 MR. COLLINS: We direct a letter back to the
15 communities that took part in this survey and thanking them.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion, is there a
18 second.

19

20 MR. JONES: I'll second.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion on the floor
23 and has been seconded to thank all the tribal councils for
24 their participation and input and information.

25

26 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called. All
29 those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Now, one more
38 time, do you want to go further or should we go eat now?

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: We're split here. Somebody
43 make a motion to recess or continue.

44

45 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to recess.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion to recess, is
48 there a second?

49

50 MR. JONES: Second.

00131

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: And it's been seconded. Any
2 further discussion?

3
4 MR. JONES: Did we come to conclusion on the
5 fishery council?

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's what's been bugging me.
8 Was there conclusion or did we take any action on the
9 coordinating council for the fisheries?

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: You left it for further
12 discussion. You wanted time after lunch and maybe into
13 tomorrow to talk about -- no, you didn't take any action on
14 the coordinating council.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, we'll bring it up
17 tomorrow.

18
19 MR. JONES: Okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, while we're on that
22 subject, I'd like each of us to think deeply on this because
23 we automatically thought we wanted to appoint two people for
24 these three regional subsistence councils, but then we also
25 want to take into consideration the feelings and differences
26 between the Yukon River drainage and the Kuskokwim drainage.
27 And I think that we'll be going in that direction. There's
28 no need for action at this time, but we will be pursuing this
29 issue.

30
31 There is a motion on the floor to recess, it has been
32 seconded.

33
34 MR. JONES: Question.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called. All
37 those in favor of taking a recess signify by saying aye.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

42
43 MR. DEACON: (Nods affirmatively)

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: We are -- okay, Henry wants to
46 go, one opposed. We will continue, hopefully, about 8:30.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: 8:30 is the announced time,
49 correct.

50

00132

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll maybe start by 9:00.
2 Thank you all for your participation and I hope to see you in
3 the morning.

4
5 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

00133

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4) ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
7 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
8 certify:

9 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 132
10 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of VOLUME I,
11 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL PUBLIC
12 MEETING, taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 13th day
13 of October, 1999, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m.
14 at the Aniak Community Hall, Aniak, Alaska;

15 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
16 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by
17 under my direction to the best of my knowledge and ability;

18 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
19 interested in any way in this action.

20 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 1st day of November,
21 1999.

22
23 _____
24 Joseph P. Kolasinski
25 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00